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BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL

RECORD

OF

LA SALLE AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

ILLINOIS

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME II.

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1900

Aaron Harford.

Frances Harford

BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RECORD

MRS. AARON TYLER HARFORD.

FRANCES (DEWEY) HARFORD, widow of the late Aaron Tyler Harford, of Verona, is a representative of one of the leading pioneer families of Grundy county, Illinois. The ancestors of both Mr. and Mrs. Harford, in both the paternal and maternal lines, were of sterling English stock. They were of a race which has been foremost in America in founding our free institutions and in settling and developing our country. The first of this family of Harfords in America was a pioneer in Westchester county, New York; and Ephraim Harford, grandfather of Aaron Tyler Harford, was a farmer there.

Harry Harford, a son of Ephraim and father of Aaron Tyler Harford, was born in Westchester county, New York, April 3, 1780. He was a soldier in the United States Army in the war of 1812-14, and was captured by the British and confined for a considerable time on a prison ship. His wife, Peggie Maria Tyler, whom he married in Westchester county, was born there March 3, 1798, and was a first cousin of John Tyler, president of the United States. Their children were born and named as follows: Lewis T., 1815; Loretta, March 13, 1816; Sarah McDonald, 1817; Elizabeth Cecilia, 1818 (died April 28, 1895); Chauncey, 1819; Altie, 1821; Aaron J., 1822 (died July 15, 1899); Margaret F., 1823 (died December 25, 1876); John, 1824; William H., 1827; Frederick C., 1830; Peter Fleming, 1832; Mary, 1834 (died young); Catherine, 1837; and Joseph.

Harry Harford, who was a well-read and observant man, and who was in early life a school teacher, lived on his farm in Westchester county, New York, until about 1840, when he removed to Illinois. He traded his New York farm for one hundred and sixty acres of land in Kendall county, four miles east of Lisbon. With his son, Aaron Tyler, he came out from New York one year in advance of the rest of his family, and, as the land was unimproved and without a house, the two lived in their wagon during their first winter in the state. They made preparations for the family and the others came the next spring, making the journey with horses from the Hudson

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river, in New York. Mr. Harford improved this property and lived on it until, late in life, he sold it and removed to California, where he lived, retired from business, and died on Christmas, 1874, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Catherine M. Biter. He was a man of strong character and broad views, a member of no church, a Democrat in politics, an honest man whose rule in life was the golden rule. His wife, Peggie Maria (Tyler) Harford, died in 1882.

Aaron Tyler Harford, a son of Harry and Peggie Maria (Tyler) Harford, was born at South Salem, Westchester county, New York, July 2, 1822. He divided his time in boyhood between farm work and attendance at the public school. He was really the first of the family in Illinois. Harry Harford exchanged farms with one Miller, an old Westchester county acquaintance who had come out some years before, and Aaron was sent ahead to "spy out the land" and report his impressions to his father before the deal was concluded. He came and saw and was conquered by the charms and manifest advantages of Illinois, and it was mainly through his influence that his father was induced to come west. Aaron lived with his parents on this farm some years after their settlement. He married Frances Dewey, at the homestead of her father in Vienna township, Grundy county, November 1, 1847, and settled on new land at Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, within the present limits of White Willow township.

Frances Dewey, who became the wife and is now the widow of Aaron Tyler Harford, was born in Ketton, Rutlandshire, England, December 4, 1825, a daughter of John, Jr., and Mary (Welborn) Dewey. John Dewey, Jr., was a son of John and Sarah (Mason) Dewey. John Dewey, Sr., was a farmer, a man of good ability, who brought up his family in the faith of the Church of England. Besides John, Jr., his children were Sarah, Eliza, William and Mary. John Dewey, Jr., was born November 9, 1802, at his father's homestead, Sutton, Lincolnshire Fens, and was educated for a mercantile career; but he also acquired a knowledge of milling, and, liking the business, bought a wind-power gristmill in Rutlandshire and devoted himself with much success to its operation. There he met, wooed and won Mary Welborn, and they were married in the form prescribed by the Church of England. Mary Welborn was born at Woolsthorpe, December 30, 1802, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Jenkinson) Welborn.

The Welborns had been settled in Lincolnshire for many generations. Thomas Welborn leased of the Duke of Rutland a farm for ninety-nine years and lived on it from his marriage until his death, February 12, 1839, at the age of eighty-three years. He was a substantial farmer and stock-raiser, a man of integrity and good business ability. His children were born and named as follows: Mary, December 30, 1802; Ann, November 11, 1805;

John Dewey

Frances, February 12, 1808; Thomas, May 1, 1811; Richard, August 2, 1814. Frances and Thomas were drowned in childhood in a canal near their home. Mrs. Harford has a good recollection of the Welborns and Deweys in England, as she did not leave her native land until after her eleventh birthday, and the scenes, incidents and environments of her childhood are vividly impressed upon her mind. They were industrious, progressive, well-to-do, God-fearing and reliable men and women, and their descendants in America do them honor.

John Dewey, Jr., Mrs. Harford's father, ran his mill at Ketton four years after his marriage. He then sold it, and, having good education and business ability, was for four years an assistant surveyor on a canal. Then he was for a like period a bookkeeper at Grenthan, Lincolnshire, in the office of the Grenthan and Nottingham canal. While Mr. Dewey was in the last position his wife became interested in LaSalle county, Illinois, which was represented in the letters of her sister, who had married John Beeson and had settled there on a new farm, as "a land flowing with milk and honey," figuratively speaking; and the more she heard and talked about Illinois the more intense grew her desire to come here. Her husband could not venture to give up his position and trust fortune in an unknown land, but he permitted her to come over, with their children, while he worked on, with the understanding that she would return or he would join them in America, as she might advise later.

That was more than sixty years ago, in the days of sailing vessels, stage coaches and canals, and in England Illinois was popularly supposed to be as yet in the domain of the wild Indian and the wild beast, and such an undertaking as Mrs. Dewey proposed was regarded as a difficult and dangerous one even for a man. But she was a woman of intelligence and of the stock from which the best pioneers have come, and she would not be dissuaded from her purpose. She made great preparation for the journey, and prayers were offered in the church for her safe guidance and delivery from all perils at her journey's end. She set down in an English almanac of that year the dates of the principal events of her journey, and from them we learn that she left Woolsthorpe, the home of her father, April 12, 1837, and traveled by canal to Nottingham, and thence by way of the rivers Trent and Mersey to Liverpool, whence she sailed, April 18, in the ship Garrick, an old-fashioned sailing vessel, but new and stanch and on her first voyage. It was not until five weeks later that she landed in New York. The voyage had much of the time been a tempestuous one, and she and her two children, with the other passengers, had more than once been tied to their berths to prevent their being thrown about by the pitching vessel and injured by violent contact with objects near.

After remaining a week in New York they set out for Illinois, going up the Hudson to Albany by the steamer Swift Shore, from Albany to Buffalo by way of the Erie canal, by lake steamer from Buffalo to Detroit, and there waited five days for a "connecting" steamer to Chicago, which was commanded by Captain Cotton. From Chicago to Ottawa they made the journey by stage. A Methodist camp-meeting was in session at Ottawa, and, being a Methodist, Mrs. Dewey found friends at once, who took her and her children to Deer Park township, where her sister lived. On the way they stopped over night, June 26, 1837, at Brown's tavern, the first log house they had slept in to that date. The next morning they arrived at Beeson's, and were entertained by Mrs. Dewey's sister.

Mrs. Dewey wrote her husband such glowing accounts of Illinois that he came over in 1838. In 1839 and 1840 he rented land of Jesse Newport, the pioneer of Mazon township, Grundy county. After that he rented land three years of Jonah Newport, brother of Jesse. At the expiration of that time he had saved money enough to buy eighty acres where his daughter, Mrs. Harford lives, of the United States Government, at a dollar and a quarter an acre. On this land was a beautiful grove named Paver's Grove, in honor of a pioneer settler in that vicinity, and otherwise it promised to be an attractive and desirable homestead. He improved it and added to it until the place contained one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land. He built upon it a dwelling substantial and costly for the time and locality, which is now a part of a more modern residence. He prospered and became a well-to-do farmer and stockman, with cattle ranging for miles in either direction over the prairies. He was a good business man, a good neighbor, and a good Democrat, industrious, frugal, upright and generous, who died January 15, 1882, aged about seventy-eight years. His children were Frances, born December 4, 1825, at Ketton, England; and Thomas Welborn, born May 31, 1827, at Woolsthorpe.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Tyler Harford lived only during the first winter of their married life on the place Mr. Harford took up at Lisbon (now in White Willow township, Kendall county, Illinois), on which he had built a house before his marriage. Thereafter they lived at the Dewey homestead for two years, until Mr. Harford bought eighty acres of government land adjoining the Dewey homestead on the south, which he improved by building a log house and otherwise, and occupied it for four years. Then, Mrs. Harford's mother having died, Mrs. Harford inherited a portion of the Dewey homestead and Mr. Harford purchased another portion, and they moved there; and there Mr. Harford lived out the remainder of his days and there his widow still lives.

Mr. Harford was a man of broad mind and independent views, and tol-

erant of the views of others, however much they might have differed from his own. He took great interest in liberal religion, and was one of the founders of the Universalist church at Verona, and for many years one of its deacons, and from its organization to his death one of its most liberal supporters. He was a great reader and possessed a remarkable memory, and his stock of historical, scientific, technical and general information was extraordinary. He was an original abolitionist, a Republican and later a Greenbacker. His business ability was of a high order, and, assisted by his wife, who inherited from her mother as well as from her father a vigorous and practical character, he accumulated a handsome property, including four hundred and eighty acres of farm land in Illinois, besides fifteen thousand acres of valuable land in Alabama, which he owned in company with his son Frederick. His widow's present fine residence was built in 1879, and her home place is one of the finest farming properties in Grundy county. Situated near a beautiful grove and surrounded by charming woodland scenery, this model home is one of the "show places" in this part of Illinois.

Mr. Harford died July 15, 1899. Following are the names and dates of birth of his children: Cornelia D., August 9, 1848; Mary, February 4, 1850 (died June 4, 1851); Fannie May, November 24, 1852; Frederick, September 27, 1854; Addison, March 14, 1857 (died May 25, 1875); Olive, July 7, 1861 (died June 7, 1870); and Ellen, April 12, 1864. Their hospitable home contains many evidences of her culture and good taste. Mrs. Harford is of uncommon business ability for a woman. Her brother, Thomas Welborn Dewey, in 1850, went by way of the isthmus to California, and died there at the age of twenty-three, as the result of exposure at Acapulco, Mexico, where he was landed with other passengers, the captain putting them ashore without their consent, that he might carry out other plans.

JUDGE A. R. JORDAN.

For the fourth term Alvah R. Jordan is serving as county judge of Grundy county, and the fact of his re-election stands as unmistakable evidence of his marked ability in the line of his chosen calling. The judge upon the bench must possess not only a wide, comprehensive and accurate knowledge of the law but must also add to this urbanity, tact and keen discernment, and above all he must have the power of putting aside all personal prejudice and feeling that his decisions may be utterly without bias,—exclusively the embodiment of justice. In all these particulars Judge Jordan has shown himself well qualified for the office, and is now serving his thirteenth year upon the bench of the county court. He is a man of strong individual-

ity and marked mentality, and has been an honor to the profession which has honored him.

Mr. Jordan is a native of the Pine Tree state, his birth having occurred in Kennebec county, Maine, on the 13th of December, 1843, his parents being Samuel and Philena (Dow) Jordan. On the paternal side he is of English lineage, while on the maternal side he is of Scotch-Irish descent. The ancestry of the Jordan family can be traced back to the Rev. Samuel Jordan, the first Episcopal clergyman of Falmouth, Maine, who left his home in Devon, England in 1640, in order to carry the gospel tidings to the colonists of the New World. He took up his abode in Falmouth, now Portland, Maine, and other of his kinsmen came at the same time and settled along the coast of New England. His descendants lived in the Pine Tree state for many generations, and there Samuel Jordan was born and reared. Having arrived at years of maturity, he married Miss Philena Dow, who was born in Windham, New Hampshire. Her father was of English descent, but on the maternal side she was of Scotch-Irish lineage. Her mother was Betsey Morrison, a lineal descendant of Samuel E. Morrison, who was a lieutenant in a company of New Hampshire troops at the capture of Lewisburg. She was also directly descended from Mathew Thornton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Many are the descendants of these first American ancestors, and not a few have become prominent in business, professional and political life in various sections of the United States. In 1854 Judge Jordan's parents came to the west, locating in Morris, Illinois, where they spent the residue of their days. The father's death occurred in 1885, and the mother passed away five years previously. They were the parents of but two children, the daughter, Elizabeth H., having died in childhood.

Judge Jordan is therefore the only survivor of the family. He was only ten years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Morris, and here he attended the public schools and also continued his studies under the private direction of Professor H. K. Trask, who was the principal of the Morris public schools. In 1860 he entered Union college, in the sophomore year, and was pursuing his collegiate course when the civil war was inaugurated. Feeling that his chief duty was to his country, in August, 1861, he laid aside his text-books and joined the "boys in blue" of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, as a private. He was made the fourth corporal and thus served until November, 1861, when he was discharged on account of a broken ankle. In the spring of 1862, however, he re-entered the service and was commissioned second lieutenant of Company I, Sixty-ninth Illinois Infantry. The regiment enlisted for a term of three months and on the expiration of that time was regularly discharged.

Mr. Jordan then went to Central City, Colorado, where he worked in

the mines and also taught the first public school ever conducted in that state. He there joined the Third Colorado Cavalry and was present at the Sand creek Indian massacre. On the expiration of his term of service in 1865 he returned to Morris, Illinois, and shortly afterward removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he remained two years. On the expiration of that period he again came to Morris, and entered upon the practice of law, in which profession he has since risen to high rank. He has informed himself thoroughly concerning the principles of jurisprudence, and at the bar he won many notable forensic triumphs in important litigated cases. His correct reasoning, his logical deductions, his accuracy in applying the points of law to the facts in controversy, all gained him prominence and won him a large clientage. He therefore conducted a successful private practice until elected to the bench, and since his elevation to the seat of justice he has won still higher honors by his ability in discharging the important duties of his high office. In politics the Judge has always been a stanch Republican, and on that ticket he has several times been chosen for positions of public trust and responsibility. The first office to which he was elected was that of state's attorney, in 1872, and so ably did he discharge his duties that he was re-elected in 1876. In 1882 he was elected county judge for a term of four years, and then resumed the practice of law, but in 1890 again became a candidate and by successive elections has since been continued in the office, so that he is now serving his thirteenth year upon the bench. In 1898 he was elected as an independent candidate, and the large vote which he received plainly indicated the confidence reposed in his ability and in his worth as a man. Upon the bench he has won a most enviable reputation and gained the commendation of the bar as well as the general public.

In 1869 the Judge was united in marriage to Miss Sarah D. Parmelee, a daughter of Charles D. Parmelee, of Morris, Illinois. Their pleasant home in Morris is celebrated for its hospitality, and the Judge and his wife occupy a very enviable position in social circles. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, and in his religious belief is a Unitarian. In early life he had no special advantages of wealth or influence to aid him, and his progress has therefore resulted from individual merit. He is a man of marked intellectuality, of keen discernment, and of broad human sympathies and everywhere commands the respect which is always accorded genuine worth.

WILLIAM HOGE.

In the days when Scotland was sending many of its brave men to America to aid in the settlement of the New World, there came to this country an ancestor of our subject. The first of the name to arrive in the United

States was William Hoge, who left the land of hills and heather and crossed the Atlantic in the seventeenth century. He married Barbara Hume, and their descendants are now widely scattered over the country. The great-grandfather of our subject also bore the name of William Hoge, and was born in Pennsylvania, the first representative of the family to become identified with the Society of Friends, having joined that quiet Christian people and lived an honorable, upright life, commanding the respect of all with whom he came in contact. In 1754 he removed to Virginia, where he reared his family of seven children, namely: Solomon, James, William, Joseph, George, Zebulon and Nancy. Of these, Solomon Hoge was united in marriage to Mary Nichols, and among their children was Joshua Hoge, the father of our subject. He wedded Miss Mary Poole, and unto them, on the 5th of July, 1801, in Loudoun county, Virginia, was born the son to whom they gave the name of William, a name that has frequently occurred in different generations of the family.

William Hoge spent his youth on his father's farm in the Old Dominion, and pursued his education in a little log school-house such as was common at that day, where the "three R's" constituted the curriculum, namely, readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic. In November, 1826, when about twenty-six years of age, he married Rachel Bowles, and in 1829 came to the west, in company with his father, on a prospecting trip. The journey was made on horseback, by way of Indianapolis and Covington, Indiana, to the site of the present city of Joliet, Illinois. Mr. Hoge, of this review, brought with him two thousand dollars, which belonged to his father and which he invested in canal lands that were then surveyed and upon the market. He selected a section and a half of choice prairie land bordering on Nettle creek, in what is now Grundy county. This purchase gave him timber, water and prairie, and provided him with cheap transportation by way of the canal and Illinois river to both Chicago and St. Louis. As a commission for making the purchase, his father gave him his choice of any quarter section of the land, and after he had made his selection he returned to Virginia. A year later he removed the family to his new possessions, reaching his destination in the latter part of October, 1831. A great Pennsylvania wagon, drawn by four horses, carried his household effects, while his wife and their children, accompanied by a young lady, who was a cousin of his wife, rode in a covered buggy drawn by two horses. His brother Solomon also accompanied him in order to aid him in establishing a home in the western wilds, and thus they made the long, tedious journey which consumed seven weeks. Hurriedly a log cabin was constructed, and in that primitive home the family resided for several years. It was the second cabin built within the present

limits of Grundy county, a fact which indicates the wild and unsettled condition of this region.

In May, 1832, the Sac war occurred, and Mr. Hoge, together with the other white settlers in the locality, fled with his family to Ottawa, but his home was unmolested by the red men, who thus showed their gratitude for the kindness which he had recently done one of their number. Not knowing his place would be safe, however, he took his wife and children to Ottawa and assisted in building a rude log fort for protection against the Indians. The whole family afterward went to Pekin, Illinois, and remained there until the latter part of August, 1832, when he deemed it safe to return.

They once more took up their abode in their pioneer home, and the work of developing the land then began in earnest, and though there were many hardships and trials to be borne, the labor was steadily prosecuted and in time the fields yielded bounteous harvests. As his financial resources increased, Mr. Hoge was enabled to extend the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of other lands, and he also carried on cattle-raising. Corn was his principal crop, and the sale of cattle added greatly to his income, so that, as a result of his energy and ability in the two branches of his business, he became a prosperous man. He had great assistance from his nine children, five sons and four daughters, who grew up around him, and ably aided him in the work of the field and of the household.

In 1843 Mr. Hoge was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, whose death occurred in that year, and during the rebellion his son Hendley was killed in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. This was a great blow to him, but did not deter him from the faithful performance of his duty. He realized the disadvantage under which he labored, owing to the limited opportunities of education which he had received in youth, and was always a firm friend of the public schools. In 1834 he erected at his own expense the first schoolhouse in Grundy county. It was a log cabin, twelve by fourteen feet, with clap-board roof, and situated a few rods from his home, and still standing. There Marie Southworth, afterward Mrs. Whitney, taught the first school in the county, and thus Mr. Hoge provided educational privileges for his children and for the other young people of the neighborhood. He was always a stanch Republican in politics from the organization of the party, but aside from casting his ballot in support of the men and measures of his choice, he took no active part in political affairs, save in the discharge of the duties of several local offices. His interest was centered in his family and his business, and he had therefore no political ambition. He was devoted to his wife and children, and considered no labor too great that would enhance their welfare or promote their happiness. In religious belief he was a Deist, believing that one could best serve God by serving his fellow men.

He was universally respected, for his life was useful and honorable. He passed away June 22, 1884, leaving to his family not only a large estate but that good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches. His sterling character, his fidelity to duty, his devotion to friends and family made his example one well worthy of emulation. As an honored pioneer he well deserves mention in this volume, and no history of Grundy county would be complete without the record of his life.

JOSHUA HOGE, SR.

Joshua Hoge is one of the oldest living settlers of Grundy county, having spent his entire life in this locality. However, he was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, June 6, 1832, during a brief absence of his parents, William and Rachel (Bowles) Hoge, who had fled from Grundy county to avoid the dangers of the Black Hawk war. Returning to the old homestead in August of that year, he was reared in Nettle Creek township, amid the wild scenes of the frontier, and with the family shared in the trials and hardships of pioneer life. Farming was conducted in a primitive manner with crude machinery, but the energy and perseverance of the settlers enabled them to convert the wild lands into rich and productive fields. Mr. Hoge assisted in the arduous task of improving the farm and remained thereon until twenty-eight years of age, when he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Gregg, who was born in Belmont County, Ohio.

The young couple began their domestic life upon a farm in Grundy county, and for many years he was actively identified with the agricultural interests of the community, achieving remarkable success in his undertakings. Indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature, while his chief characteristics are perseverance and energy. This enabled him to augment his possessions year by year, and to-day he is the owner of four hundred acres of rich and arable land, from which he derives a good income. In 1898 he left the farm and removed to Morris, where he has since made his home, occupying a spacious and modern residence, which is one of the most attractive homes in the city. There he is spending his declining days, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hoge have been born two sons,—Arthur A., and William M.,—who are living on their father's farm and are well-known agriculturists of the county. The one daughter of the family, Charrie Belle, died at the age of fourteen years. Mr. Hoge and his family have long been prominent people of the community, sharing the high regard of friends and neighbors, for their many excellencies of character commend them to the

confidence and esteem of all. Mr. Hoge has never taken an active part in politics, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business interests, in which he has met with very creditable success. His life stands in exemplification of the fact that prosperity comes not from chance but is the result of earnest, consecutive efforts. As one of the pioneers of the community he is also deserving of mention in this volume. He has witnessed almost the entire growth of Grundy county, has been an interested spectator of its advancement, and has borne his part in the work of progress and improvement. As a citizen he is loyal and public-spirited, and withholds his support from no measure intended to enhance the general welfare.

GEORGE ROBINSON.

Back to Connecticut in the old colonial days Mr. Robinson traces his ancestry, for the founder of the family in America was among those who aided in laying the foundation of the Charter Oak state. Isaac Robinson, his grandfather, was born in Connecticut, on the river of that name, and was a farmer by occupation. During the Revolutionary war he served as ensign, an office now equivalent to that of second lieutenant, and loyally aided the colonists in their struggle for independence, remaining in the army until the British troops were forced to withdraw from American soil. He married Miss Sarah Dow, an own cousin of the celebrated Lorenzo Dow. They first located on a farm in Connecticut and then moved to New York in early pioneer days, and there he died, about 1813, between the ages of sixty and seventy years. He was a member of the Methodist church and a man of sterling character. His children were Don Alonzo, Zenas, Wesley, Isaac, Solomon, Polly, Esther, Millie and Phoebe.

Don Alonzo Robinson, the father of our subject, was born on the Connecticut river, February 5, 1787. He enjoyed such educational privileges as were afforded in the schools of New York state at that time, and as he was an apt student he acquired a comprehensive knowledge that well fitted him for life's practical duties. He became a school-teacher and followed that pursuit throughout his life. He was largely self-educated, however, for he always continued his reading and study and was constantly adding to his broad fund of information. When a boy he accompanied his parents on their removal to Courtland county, New York, being at the time about seven years of age. In the Empire state he wedded Miss Nancy Cammeron, a sister of Rev. William Cammeron, who was a native of Scotland, and was a Methodist minister. The following children were born unto them: William Francis, who was born January 4, 1816, and Nancy, who

was born February 19, 1821. The mother died in Chenango county, New York, and the father afterward married Miss Betsey Conick, who was born in Courtland county, May 3, 1802, a daughter of William and Martha Conick. Her father was a native of New England and served in a Vermont regiment throughout the war for independence, being at one time under the direct command of General Washington. He took up his abode in Courtland county, New York, thus becoming one of the pioneer settlers who secured and improved a farm in the midst of the forest. He afterward sold that property and went to Chenango county, New York, where he lived a retired life. He died in Chenango county in 1838, at the age of eighty-four years. His children were Robert, John, Peter, James, Sallie, Betsey and Polly.

After their marriage Don Alonzo Robinson and his wife located on a farm in Chenango county, New York, where he engaged in teaching school through the winter months, his attention being given to the labors of the field and meadow through the summer months. In 1837 he went with his family to Seneca county, New York, where he continued teaching and farming until his removal to Michigan in 1844. He settled in Kalamazoo county, and in 1856 he came to Illinois. He was then well advanced in years, and made his home with his son Charles until his death, which occurred February 13, 1871. He was a Methodist in religious faith and served as a class leader in church. In the Empire state he served for many years as justice of the peace and was one of the school directors of his district. He lived an upright and honorable life and was highly respected by all who knew him. The children of his second marriage were James, born March 30, 1823; George, November 13, 1824; Fletcher, May 4, 1826; Mary, November 13, 1834; Charles, April 12, 1836; and John, January 22, 1838. All of this family were born in Chenango county, save Esther, who was born in Seneca county, New York, May 12, 1843. The mother, Mrs. Betsey Robinson, died in Mazon township, Grundy county, at the home of her son, Charles, September 23, 1880, and was a member of the Methodist church.

George Robinson, whose name introduces this review, was born in Chenango county, New York, November 13, 1824, and pursued his education in the schools of Seneca county, whither he removed with his parents when thirteen years of age. Very early in life he began to work as a farm hand, and at the age of nineteen years he removed to Michigan, where he was employed in that capacity. In 1849 he was one of the gold-seekers who went to California, making the long and arduous journey across the plains. He proceeded westward by railroad to Niles, Michigan, then by stage to Michigan City, crossing the lake on a steamer to Chicago. From there he went by the Frink & Walker line of stages to Rock Island, Illinois, thence down the Mississippi river to St. Louis, Missouri, and then proceeded by

steamer up the Missouri to St. Joseph. When he left home he took with him his "carpet-bag" containing his clothing, and in his purse had one hundred dollars. On the boat between St. Louis and St. Joseph he met a fellow traveler to the gold mines, William McKenny, of Ohio, who had an outfit consisting of oxen, a huge wagon, provisions and other necessary supplies. Mr. Robinson made a bargain with Mr. McKenny to join his party to drive the oxen and cook. He was also to pay fifty dollars down and on reaching California fifty dollars more; but on reaching the Humboldt river he obtained a chance to drive oxen for a Mr. Bedford, from Kentucky, who was accompanied by his family and who had two wagons and five yoke of oxen. They took the Lassen route to Lassen's ranch, California, crossing the Missouri river at St. Joseph on the 10th of May, 1849. The train consisted of thirty-seven huge covered wagons, each drawn by from three to six yoke of oxen and containing provisions and supplies to last for several months. There were one hundred and twenty armed men in the party under the command of Captain King, who had served in the Mexican war. They were five months and four days in reaching Lassen's ranch on the Sacramento river, one hundred miles above Sacramento city. It was a great sight,—this almost interminable road across the plains for thousands of miles; and throughout the greater part of the time caravans of gold-seekers with outfits similar to their own could be seen to the front or rear. Along the trail between St. Joseph and the Rocky Mountains there were many American adventurers and gold-seekers, all armed in case of an attack from hostile Indians, or murderous Mormons who, at Mountain Meadow, under the leadership of the infamous John D. Lee, massacred one of the largest bands of emigrants that ever crossed the plains. In the party were many women and children, and all were put to death without mercy, with the exception of a few of the little children whom the Mormons believed were too young to tell the story; but the impression remained strong on their minds and the awful tale was told, and many years later Lee was hung for his crimes.

The train with which Mr. Robinson traveled saw a number of bands of Indians, but were unmolested. They visited a Sioux village on the Platte river, and Mr. Robinson, having some trinkets which he had bought for the purpose of trading with the Indians, left the wagon to make the exchange. He found the village deserted by all of the Indian men, who were out hunting, and he traded to some extent with the squaws, however. He discovered that his wagon train had passed out of sight and so hastened to overtake them. A short time afterward an Indian appeared and tried to take from him a handkerchief which he wore around his neck. This he would not allow, whereupon the Indian drew his knife and made signs that he would cut his throat. Thus threatened, and having no arms, Mr. Robin-

son was obliged to surrender the coveted article. On reaching the wagons soon afterward he missed a buffalo robe, and, seeing some squaws near by, making off with the stolen property, he recovered his robe and drove them away. However, the Indians as a rule were friendly, for the caravans were too numerous and the emigrants too well armed to allow them to make an attack.

Another incident concerning Mr. Robinson's trip across the plains occurred when they forded the Platte river, meeting there a band of Sioux Indians. They were dressed in skins with all of the paraphernalia of savage life, and, seated on ponies, they rode with the train five miles, having held a counsel with the whites and smoked the pipe of peace. Afterward their train passed through their village, and Mr. Robinson and several of the younger men stopped to trade with the redskins. He saw the Indians in all their savage wildness, but his experiences on the way left him with many memories which he now cherishes.

Mr. Robinson was only twenty-four years old when he crossed the great plains, and, although he walked the entire distance and was often footsore and weary, his health remained good; and soon after reaching Lassen's ranch, on the Sacramento river, he went to Sacramento city, one hundred miles, on a pony which he had found disabled while crossing the plains. He secured employment with a man who conducted a "hotel" for the miners in a big tent at Drytown on Dry creek, forty miles east of Sacramento city, receiving three hundred dollars per month for his services. There he worked for a month, after which he engaged in gold mining on Dry creek for a few weeks. He was then taken ill and after two months, being very weak and unable to work, he secured transportation to Sacramento city, paying an ounce of gold (sixteen dollars) for the distance of forty miles, and finally obtained shelter in the Crescent City Hotel. When well enough he worked for his board until able to earn wages. He then engaged in hay-making on the Sacramento river, at ten dollars per day. So many men were in the gold mines that help could not be obtained at what we would call reasonable prices for other kinds of labor. Subsequently Mr. Robinson engaged in gold-mining in Nevada county, California, and was afterward employed at ranching and teaming. He returned to the state by way of the Nicaragua route across Lake Nicaragua, making that journey at the time the celebrated filibuster chief, Walker, and his band were making raids in the Central American states. A company of these filibusters had been on the boat from San Francisco, but they left the vessel at San Juan del Norte, on the Pacific coast. The two hundred and fifty passengers rode on mules twelve miles, almost entirely without arms, to San Juan del Sur, on Lake Nicaragua. In the market place they bought supplies from the natives, and

while thus busily engaged a company of Nicaraguan soldiers came up and fired upon them, killing five before they made a pretense of discovering that the passengers were not filibusters. It was found that the belts of the five who had been killed were cut and that their money had been taken from them. On Lake Nicaragua the boat was fired on at the head of the San Juan river, and turned back; and it was some time before it entered the port of Grenada, about thirty miles distant, where the United States had an American consul. However, after many hardships and varied experiences, Mr. Robinson reached his home in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in November, 1855.

Immediately afterward he came to Kankakee county, Illinois, where he engaged in farm work. He was married in that county on the 21st of April, 1858, to Miss Maryette Dickinson, who was born April 5, 1829, in Connecticut, at Simsbury, Hartford county. She is a daughter of Lewis and Avilla (Case) Dickinson, both representatives of old colonial Puritan families of Connecticut. Her father was born in that state, March 9, 1799, and died in Kankakee county, Illinois, March 4, 1876. He was a farmer and traveling salesman, and traveled throughout the southern states selling clocks for thirty winters, and during the summer time he lived on the farm with his family and gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He had but one brother, who died at the age of twenty-five years, and no sisters. He was married in Simsbury, Connecticut, August 28, 1821, to Avilla Alden Case, and after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson located on a farm, making a substantial and comfortable home at Simsbury Connecticut. Their children were Mary J., born April 25, 1825; Janette R., February 11, 1827; Maryette, April 5, 1829; Selah, April 13, 1833; Luke T., January 8, 1835; Timothy C., March 19, 1837; and Anna H., April 6, 1841. Mr. Dickinson was a member of the Connecticut state legislature and a prominent and enterprising man. He was greatly respected for his sound judgment, and as a result of many years' faithful service he was always known as Squire Dickinson. Of strong intelligence and force of character, he was well fitted for leadership, and through his extensive travels he gained much practical knowledge and experience. He and his wife were members of the Baptist church, and were people of the highest respectability, enjoying the confidence and good will of all who knew them.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Robinson located in Pilot township, Kankakee county, on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which was but little improved. A small tract had been plowed and a small shanty built. There they lived for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Robinson sold the property and rented land in Will county for three years. He then came to Felix township, Grundy county, in the spring of 1865, and purchased eighty acres of land upon which some improvements had been made. He

conducted the work of developing that farm until 1871, when he removed to Wauponsee township and purchased eighty acres of land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. There he energetically and successfully carried on agricultural pursuits until March, 1892, when he retired from active life, taking up his abode in the village of Mazon.

To Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have been born the following children: Willie, born March 18, 1859; Arthur L., February 27, 1862; Nettie, January 22, 1868; and Jessie, January 1, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are members of the Methodist church, in which he has served as a class leader and steward for several years. In politics he is a Democrat, and was a justice of the peace of Felix township for six years, while, in Washington township, he held the same office for two years, and was also a township clerk of Kankakee county; and he ever discharged his duties with promptness and faithfulness. His life has been one of industry and enterprise, and in his younger days he passed through many stirring scenes and through many hardships, but now in the evening of life he is quietly resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil.

GEORGE E. WHEELER.

George E. Wheeler, of Mazon, Illinois, is one of the prominent and influential citizens of Grundy county, where he is also one of the most substantial and prosperous farmers. The Wheeler family, of which he is a representative, comes of the old Puritan New England stock. The remote founders of the family in America came from England in the days of Puritan emigration from that country. The following account of the genealogy of the family is taken from a memorandum left by the late Henry H. Wheeler, father of George E. Wheeler.

Thomas Wheeler, the great-great-grandfather of the immediate subject of this sketch, was the first of the name of whom we have any record. He died while returning from the French and Indian war at Fite Miller tavern, near Pine Plains, Columbia county, New York, September 1, 1757. He is believed to have had a brother Solomon and they are thought to have lived at Woodbury, Connecticut, until 1749. Seth Wheeler, a son of Thomas and great-grandfather of George E. Wheeler, was born February 22, 1749, and was a captain in the patriot service in the Revolutionary war. He married Mary Treadwell, born November 23, 1751, and they had children, as follows: Thomas, born September 1, 1770; Ashbell, born August 17, 1772; Seth, Jr., born September 3, 1776; Mary, born September 25, 1778, who married S. Truesdale; Thomas, born January 31, 1781; Sarah, born

Geo. E. Wheeler.

Vernon Wheeler

Effie Pearl Wheeler Mary J. Wheeler

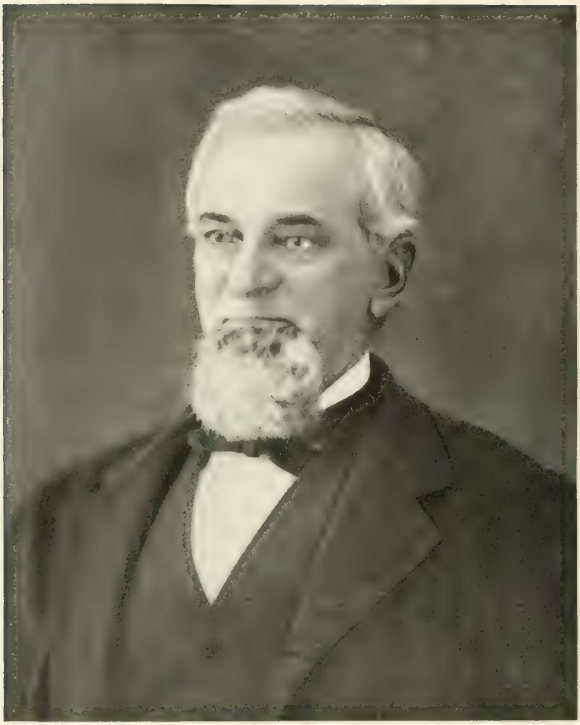
June 10, 1783, who married John Truesdale; Lucy, born February 13, 1786, who married John Gilbert; Stephen, born June 6, 1789, died May 9, 1861, aged seventy-one years, eleven months and three days; Solomon, born July 25, 1793, died May 7, 1852. Myron Wheeler, a son of Seth, Jr., married Catherine Roe and was killed in the battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican war. Stephen, a son of Seth Wheeler, born June 6, 1789, was married March 30, 1818, to Maria Powers, born October 20, 1795, and their children were as follows: Henry Harrison, born January 28, 1820; Mary, born March 8, 1822; Frederick Powers, born June 4, 1824; Richard Nelson, born February 21, 1826; John, born March 25, 1828; Frances, born April 10, 1830, who died February 18, 1832; Caroline F., born February 1, 1832, and died January 28, 1889; Sarah J., born September 28, 1834, who died March 14, 1835; Franklin, born February 20, 1836, who died November 24, 1863; Sarah J., born July 16, 1840; Helen D. (twin of Sarah J.) who married Edward C. Moody, November 26, 1862, and died June 24, 1879. Stephen died May 9, 1861, Maria, his wife, January 4, 1875. Henry Harrison Wheeler (a son of Stephen and Maria (Powers) Wheeler and Amanda R. Simmons were married October 16, 1849; Richard N. Wheeler and Lucy J. Wilson were married March 30, 1851; Sarah J. Wheeler and George W. Mersereau were married November 10, 1861.

Maria Powers, who married Stephen Wheeler, was the daughter of Frederick Powers, who was born March 31, 1765, and died December 21, 1831. He married Ruth Pennoyer, who was born February 25, 1767, and died July 16, 1853. The children of Frederick and Ruth (Pennoyer) Powers were as follows: Lucy, born October 4, 1779, who died October 2, 1803; David, born May 30, 1791, who died August 24, 1849; Talbot, born August 28, 1793, who died November 28, 1874; Maria, born October 20, 1795, who died June 4, 1875; Julia A., born May 18, 1797, who died June 6, 1875; George, born December 27, 1798, who died September 21, 1803; Caroline F., born March 3, 1801, who died November 9, 1888; Lydia, born September 16, 1802, who died June 19, 1883; William, born August 27, 1804, who died September 30, 1805; Frances W., born December 22, 1806; Charlotte J., born December 22, 1810. Stephen Wheeler, grandfather of George E. Wheeler, became a farmer, but in early life was a carpenter. He owned a farm of two hundred acres in Broome county, New York, where he died. Henry H. Wheeler, a son of Stephen and Maria (Powers) Wheeler, was born in Dutchess county, New York, January 28, 1820. He received a good education for the time, primarily in the common schools, and finishing his studies at a seminary located on his father's farm in which his father was a stockholder. Mr. Wheeler was throughout his life a wide reader of good books and kept well up with the times. He married, in

Broome county, New York, October 16, 1849, Amanda Simmons, who was born October 6, 1822, in Dutchess county, New York, a daughter of William and Clarissa (Roe) Simmons. William Simmons was born August 7, 1785, in Dutchess county, New York. He was the son of Nicholas Simmons, of sturdy Holland-Dutch stock, and the grandson of Peter Simmons, who came from Holland in the eighteenth century and settled in the northern part of Dutchess county, or possibly in the adjoining county of Columbia, New York.

Nicholas Simmons married Katrina Snyder, also of Holland-Dutch stock and born on the farm adjoining his father's. They had ten children—four boys and six girls—named Katrina, William, Henry, Anna, John, Charity, Hannah, Betsy, Polly and Anthony. Nicholas Simmons lived to be nearly eighty years old and died in Broome county, New York. In politics he was a Democrat. William Simmons, the father of Mrs. Henry H. Wheeler, was a soldier in the United States Army in the war of 1812 and came near death from yellow fever while in the service. He was a prosperous farmer, entirely a self-made man of upright character and a remarkable physical constitution. He was twice married, the first time to Clarissa Roe, in 1813, in the town of North East, Dutchess county, New York, where she was born March 7, 1794, a daughter of Silas and Mercy (Harvey) Roe. They settled on the Roe farm in Dutchess county, and lived there about ten years, and there she died September 13, 1827. For his second wife he married Wealthy Roe, her cousin, who bore him two daughters: Clarissa, December 8, 1832; and Laura, December 31, 1833. By the first wife (Clarissa Roe) there were born five children. The eldest of these, Harvey R., born September 29, 1814, married Almira Marsh, who died January 2, 1889. They had two children who lived: Eugene W., born in 1840; and Rollin, born in 1846. Edward, the second son of William and Clarissa (Roe) Simmons, was born April 14, 1816, and was twice married, first to Harriet Winchell. His second wife was Sarah (Mead) Trowbridge. There were two children by the first marriage: Alfred, who lived to be twenty-two years of age; and James, who died when two years old.

Of Edward Simmons more than a passing notice should be given. He lives at Millerton, Dutchess county, New York, near where he was born, and is one of the oldest lawyers in that part of the state, having reached the venerable age of eighty-three years. He is distinguished for his prominence at the bar, his educational work and for long activity in public affairs. In the winter of 1832-3, he began teaching school in Lime Rock, Connecticut, and from that time until 1848 he followed that occupation with marked success. In 1838-9 he taught a school of a high grade at Greene, Chenango county, New York, and from there went to Great Barrington,



Henry H Wheeler

Amanda R. Wheeler

Massachusetts, teaching Latin and Greek and the higher English branches. In 1843 he returned to Millerton and with Alexander Winchell, afterward prominent as a geologist and long a conspicuous member of the faculty of the University of Michigan, opened a private school. Mr. Simmons built the store in Millerton now occupied by James Finch, and engaged in a general merchandise business there, which he conducted twenty-five years and then transferred to Mr. Finch, who had been his clerk for fifteen years. In 1867 Mr. Simmons was admitted to the bar. He has been a successful lawyer and is a member of the New York State Bar Association and still gives some attention to legal matters. He was the financial secretary of the New York state constitutional convention in 1867, of which William A. Wheeler was the president and Samuel J. Tilden, Horace Greeley and other well known men of the time were members. He filled the office of supervisor for five terms, and was the chairman of the board for one term, and he was a member of the committee which appeared before the state board of assessors and secured a reduction in the assessment of Dutchess county, which in three years saved the tax-payers two hundred thousand dollars. He is an advocate of good schools and favors every local improvement. Politically he was a free-soil Democrat in early years, but voted for Fremont in 1856, and since that time has been a Republican. He has been a member of the Baptist church for sixty-four years, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity. (The above sketch of Edward W. Simmons was taken from a Dutchess county (New York) newspaper.)

Julia A., a daughter of William and Clarissa (Roe) Simmons, was born February 5, 1819, married Lewis W. Barnes and died in September, 1851, leaving a daughter, Eva Julia, born August 27, 1846. Amanda, another of their daughters, who married Henry H. Wheeler, will be noticed more at length further on. James Barlow Simmons, the fifth and last in the family, was born April 17, 1827, and married Mary Stephens, and they were the parents of Dr. Robert Stephens Simmons. William Simmons, the father of the above mentioned children, died in Dutchess county, New York, July 14, 1868. Silas Roe, the father of Clarissa (Roe) Simmons, was an Englishman and a man of means, who owned a farm at North East, Dutchess county, which contained three hundred acres valued at one hundred dollars an acre. He died on the place, at a venerable age. His children were Uzziel, Annie, Jeduthun, Laura, Julia, Caroline, Amos, Clarissa, Lyman, Harvey, Harmon, Julia, Alvah and Amanda.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Wheeler, parents of George E. Wheeler, moved to Illinois in May, 1850, not long after their marriage. They came to Chicago by way of the lakes, and thence penetrated the state as far as Morris. They settled on the farm where the immediate subject of the

sketch now lives, then consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, on which had been built a double log house. A small crop had been put in. Mr. Wheeler paid five hundred dollars for the place and improved it and made it a good home farm. In political opinion he was a stanch Republican, and one of the original members of the party, having voted for John C. Fremont. As a citizen he was honored, respected, and influential in the township. A friend of good schools, he was for many years a member of the board of education; and he also held the office of assessor in his township. In early life he was inclined to military affairs and held the office of lieutenant in a militia company in New York. He was one of the respected pioneers of Grundy county because of his strong, fearless, outspoken character and his upright and straightforward treatment of every one. An old neighbor said of him: "He was always honest and fair. He was independent in thought and always frank in his expression of his views." Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Wheeler were the parents of three children: George E., born February 20, 1851; Elmer E., born September 18, 1860, who died March 13, 1862; and Clara May, born January 20, 1863. Mr. Wheeler died January 27, 1897, at his residence in Morris, where he had lived since May, 1873. Mrs. Wheeler is yet living, a venerable lady of excellent memory and much beloved for her high character. Their daughter, Clara May, married Abraham J. Neff, January 21, 1891, and has two children: Mae A., born in 1891; Paul A., born in 1892; and Dorothy, born in 1899.

George E. Wheeler is one of the oldest continuous residents of Grundy county. He was born on the Wheeler homestead in Mazon township, where he now lives, and was brought up to farming among the pioneers and can well remember many of them. His education was obtained in the common schools of the county. In the fall of 1869 he was given a certificate as a school-teacher, by the late Hiram C. Goold, then county superintendent of schools. He taught school four winters, working the remainder of the year on the farm. Having received his education and taught in the schools of his neighborhood he fully realizes the necessity of better schools, so that the youth who has to acquire an education in this manner may have every opportunity. He is in favor of paying liberal wages to teachers,—enough to secure the highest ability, so that all the preparatory branches and even some of the higher courses might be taught in the home schools. He has been a school trustee for ten years. He married, October 11, 1871, in Good Farm township, Grundy county, Illinois, Mary J. Keepers, who was born March 16, 1854, in Guernsey county, Ohio, a daughter of Israel J. and Mary (Kimble) Keepers. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler settled on the Wheeler homestead and by steady thrift and industry have prospered and

now own a fine and fertile farm and most attractive homestead. Their home place consists of two hundred acres, and their other farm, in the same section, contains one hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Wheeler has served his fellow townsmen as supervisor well and faithfully.

The following is an extract from the Morris Herald: "He (Mr. Wheeler) was first elected in 1885, serving two terms. He was again elected in the spring of 1889, and he has served continuously, succeeding himself, since that time. He has been chairman of the board during five years of this long service. In politics he is always a Republican."

When Mr. Wheeler first became a member of the board of supervisors, a levy of forty thousand dollars was required to pay running expenses and indebtedness. He has seen a business policy developed, and has helped develop it, until this has been materially reduced. At one time county officers were allowed to retain all the fees of their offices, and in one case this amounted to three thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars per annum. Mr. Wheeler was an advocate, and aided in the adoption, of such legislation by the board as to allow officers a reasonable salary for services, and providing for an accounting of fees earned to the county. He occupies an enviable place in the esteem of the people of Grundy county, owing to his services in securing favorable action toward the care of the poor of the county by one person. It was Mr. Wheeler who wrote and presented the resolution to the board, which was adopted, providing for the appointment of a county agent for the poor. He has long been of the opinion, from his actual knowledge of the work, that better relief could be afforded in this matter, and more economically, under the supervision of one person, and the people at large better protected. There seems little question now of the wisdom of Mr. Wheeler's foresight. It has created a reform which has saved the people thousands of dollars a year, and yet has taken care of every needy case of want or suffering in the county, weeding out impostors and others who preferred to accept a public charity rather than work. In matters of reform Mr. Wheeler is sometimes termed radical, yet his years of experience have proven of great value to the people at large, and the measures he has advocated, as a rule, have resulted satisfactorily.

Mr. Wheeler is the president of the Vienna Township Mutual Insurance Company, which is chartered to do business in the townships of Vienna, Highland, Norman, Good Farm, Mazon and Wauponsee. The company has over six hundred thousand dollars in policies in force and he has been one of its nine directors of the company for many years. He also is an earnest advocate of good roads and believes in the policy of beginning at once to improve the roads and doing as much as is consistent with the means at hand and in a practical and economical manner. No man is more

favorably regarded in Grundy county than George E. Wheeler, and he has fairly won the high esteem in which he is held by his honest efforts in behalf of the people.

The children of George E. and Mary J. (Keepers) Wheeler are Effie Pearl, born March 11, 1877, and Vernon, born July 23, 1886. Mrs. Wheeler and her daughter are members of the Baptist church.

Samuel Keepers, a great-grandfather of Mrs. George E. Wheeler, of the old colonial stock, was the owner of a good farm in Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he lived and died. He married Ann Hayes, of Pennsylvania, and had children as follows: John, Joseph H., Kate, Elizabeth and Jane. After his death his wife (Ann) married again and had one daughter, Ann. Joseph H. Keepers, a son of Samuel and grandfather of Mrs. George E. Wheeler, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania. He married, in that county, Hannah P. Jordan and they moved to western Pennsylvania and settled in Beaver county. About 1830 they moved to Guernsey county, Ohio, with teams. There he was a pioneer and became a substantial farmer. A member of the Baptist church, he was a straightforward, honorable man of the highest Christian character. His children were Phoebe A., William, Sarah J., Israel J., Joseph, Mary E., Hannah M., Philena and Henrietta. Mrs. Joseph H. Keepers died April 28, 1873, aged sixty-eight, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hannah M. Warnock, in Iroquois county, Illinois. Mr. Keepers died in Guernsey county, Ohio, December 6, 1842, scarcely past middle age.

Israel Jordan Keepers, the father of Mrs. Wheeler, went with his parents to Guernsey county, Ohio, in 1830, when he was about seven years old. There he received a good common-school education and married, in Jefferson township, August 22, 1850, Mary Kimble, a daughter of Adam and Ann Marie (Huffman) Kimble. Adam was the son of Nathan and Betsy (Davis) Kimble. Nathan Kimble was born in Germany. He came to America, settled in New Jersey and served his adopted country seven years and six months in the Revolutionary war. He afterward located in Washington county, Pennsylvania. From there he came to Guernsey county, Ohio, as a pioneer in 1810, and took up and improved government land. He died in 1824 and is buried in Jefferson township, Guernsey county. He was elected a justice of the peace in 1816 and was the first to hold that office in Guernsey county. In 1817 he was the chairman of the meeting to organize Jefferson township. Nathan Kimble's children were Adam, William, Washington, Robert, Jane and Mary. His first wife, Betsy, nee Davis, died in Guernsey county, Ohio, and he married Rebecca ————, and their children were Nathan George, Cyrus, Matilda, and Sarah A. Nathan Kimble's farm was known as Congress Field

S. J. Keepers

Mary Keepers

and was a fine property. In the early Indian troubles the family frequently took refuge in a rude blockhouse which stood close by their cabin. Mr. Kimble had a claim to land near Winchester, Ohio, by virtue of a soldier's warrant for his services in the Revolutionary war.

Adam Kimble, Nathan Kimble's oldest child, was born in New Jersey, in 1794, and married Ann Marie Huffman, who was born October 15, 1800, and died in 1878. She was of sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, a daughter of John and Betsy (McClellan) Huffman, natives of that state. John Huffman was a pioneer in Guernsey county, Ohio, before 1800, from "The Glades" of Washington county, Pennsylvania. The Huffmans were originally from Germany. John Huffman cleared his forest farm and became a well-to-do and substantial farmer. He lived to be about seventy years old and died in Ohio, a member of the Presbyterian church. John and Elizabeth (McClellan) Huffman were the parents of children named George, Joseph, Abraham, Benjamin, John, Elizabeth and Mary. Adam Kimble was a soldier in the war of 1812. After his marriage to Ann Marie Huffman he settled in Jefferson township, Guernsey county, Ohio, and owned in time the fine property called Congress Field, besides much other land, and was considered well off. His children were Elizabeth, Rebecca, Delilah, Davis, Huffman, William, Jane, Mary, Sallie, Eliza, Nancy, George, Nathan and Robert. The latter died in infancy. All the others lived to grow up. Nancy died, aged twenty-two years. The others, eight of whom are living, all reared families. Adam Kimble died January 4, 1862, as the result of a fall the previous New Year's eve. His wife lived to be seventy-eight years old. They were members of the Baptist church. Israel J. Keepers settled in Guernsey county, Ohio, on the old Keepers home property, which consisted of two hundred and twenty-five acres of land and a sawmill, which he owned in partnership with his brother Joseph. In September, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for three years or during the war, and was honorably discharged at the close of the struggle. His regiment was stationed at Nashville, Tennessee.

He came to Grundy county, Illinois, and settled in Good Farm township in 1866, and bought one hundred and twenty-three acres of land. This farm was well improved and he lived on it until 1883. At that time he bought another farm in the same township but never occupied it as a residence. He retired in 1884 and for some years lived at Gardner, Illinois. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Carrie Taylor, at Mazon, Illinois, October 3, 1892, aged about sixty-three years. He was a member of the Baptist church, in which he was for many years an elder, and his official place in the church was filled by his son, William I. Politically he was a

stanch Republican. A friend of education, he was long a school director, and he was a much trusted man of fine business capacity and was the administrator of several estates and executor of a number of wills. His children are William I., Mary J., Joseph H., Caroline, Hannah Myrtle and Olive W. Mrs. Keepers, his widow, who was born June 17, 1831, is a lady of intelligence and greatly beloved by all for her many good qualities of head and heart. It is said of her that "she is a mother to all." This is true especially in times of sickness and trouble. Her home is now with her children.

ALANSON D. SMITH, M. D.

For twenty-nine years Dr. Smith has engaged in the practice of medicine in Morris, and through this period his skill and ability has been so marked as to win him recognition as one of the most careful and conscientious representatives of the profession in Grundy county. He has been a close and painstaking student all his life. There is no calling or business which imposes greater responsibility upon its followers, for life and death are in the hands of the physician. An unskillful operation, a drug wrongly administered may take from man that which he prizes most—life, and the public accords its patronage only to those who merit and deserve its confidence. For the past nine years, he has devoted a good deal of time to the study and treatment of the drug habits, namely: the opium, liquor and tobacco habits. By his methods of treatment patients addicted to those drugs are easily and promptly cured, without any suffering or ill after effects; the craving removed and the health restored, for those using those drugs to excess are both mentally and physically diseased; that being the cause of their inability to discontinue their use, until their health is restored and the poisons eliminated from the system. The large practice which Dr. Smith enjoys is therefore an indication of his ability and attests his high rank in the medical fraternity.

Dr. Smith was born near Watertown, Jefferson county, New York, August 2, 1845. His parents, Eleazer and Maria (Derby) Smith, were natives of Vermont, the father born in Rutland, September 21, 1807, the mother in Huntington, August 28, 1815. Nathan Smith, great-grandfather of the Doctor, was a native of Connecticut and served two years as a soldier in the French and Indian war, from 1755 to 1757. Prior to the Revolution he removed to the Green Mountain state, where as captain of a company he joined the forces of Colonel Ethan Allen soon after the battle of Lexington. He aided in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga early in the struggle for independence and remained in the army with Colonel Allen during the war.

The Doctor's maternal grandfather was also a colonial soldier during the Revolutionary war, and her father served during the second war with England—the war of 1812. The parents of Dr. Smith were married in New York, where the father conducted a farm and dairy until 1854, at which time they came to Illinois. They first located near Marseilles, but purchasing a farm in Saratoga township, Grundy county, they took up their abode there April 1, 1856. There the father carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred June 21, 1886, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. His widow is still living and now resides with a daughter in Iowa. This worthy couple were the parents of eight sons and two daughters: Charles C., a resident of Joliet, Illinois; Edwin R., who was killed by a Confederate sharpshooter while, as lieutenant, he was directing a squad engaged in digging trenches at Petersburg, Virginia, August 12, 1864; Peter B., who died January 15, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tennessee, while serving in the Union army in Captain Cogswell's battery, from Ottawa, Illinois; William H., a resident of Gardner, Illinois; Walter S., of Morris, who loyally served his country in the Civil war and died in 1888; George F., who also wore the blue in the struggle to preserve the Union and is now a resident and newspaper publisher of Keosauqua, Iowa; Frank E., who makes his home in the Hawkeye state; and our subject. The daughters are Mrs. Laura J. Davis and Emma A., of Iowa.

Alanson D. Smith is the sixth son of this family. During his boyhood he accompanied his parents to Illinois and was reared on the home farm where he remained until seventeen years of age, when he left the parental roof in order to attend school. He acquired a fair education and learned telegraphy, which he followed for four years, being stationed at Polo, Illinois. Having determined to enter professional life, however, he began the study of medicine while serving as telegraph operator, and later continued his studies in Morris with Dr. John N. Freeman as his preceptor. Later he went to Brooklyn, New York, and became a student in the Long Island College hospital, subsequently entering the medical department of the University of the City of New York, in which institution he was graduated in 1870.

Thus prepared for his chosen calling, in April, 1870, Dr. Smith located in Dwight, Illinois, having an office with Dr. Keeley, after practicing a short time with an uncle in his native county and state. In the meantime, Dr. Freeman had moved to Brooklyn, New York, and was succeeded by Dr. S. C. White, who, becoming dissatisfied, induced Dr. Smith to come to Morris and take his place in the office where he studied, in July following, where he has practiced medicine continuously since, having now been in practice in Morris longer than any of the physicians connected with the

medical fraternity there. Thus it was that our subject became identified with the medical fraternity of Grundy county in 1870. From the beginning he has enjoyed a large and lucrative practice and has made judicious investment of his capital, now owning valuable property interests in Morris. Socially he is a Master Mason, and in politics he is a Republican. His life has been well spent in devotion to the duties that have devolved upon him, and he is accounted one of the highly respected citizens of his community.

ABRAHAM HOLDERMAN.

One of the pioneers of Grundy county, Abraham Holderman was for many years connected with the interests of this section of the state, and at all times bore his part in the work of progress, improvement and advancement. He also met with success in his business undertakings and became one of the extensive land-owners of the community. In all life's relations he commanded the respect of those with whom he was associated and no history of the agricultural interests of Grundy county would be complete without the record of his life.

He was born in Ross county, Ohio, January 22, 1822, and was a son of Abraham and Charlotte (O'Neal) Holderman. His father was a Pennsylvania Dutchman and his mother was of Irish lineage. The former was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and when eighteen years of age removed to Ross county, Ohio, where he was married. Seven sons and seven daughters were born of this union, and eleven of the family grew to years of maturity, while ten of the number were married and reared families of their own. The father was a prosperous man who extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising in Ohio, but, desiring to try his fortune in a district farther west, he came to Illinois on a prospecting tour in July, 1831. Selecting land in this state, he then returned to Ohio and in the fall of 1831 brought his family to Illinois, settling at what is now known as Holderman's Grove. This was a year before the Black Hawk war. When the Indians began hostilities against the white people, in order that his family might escape the danger which threatened them he hastened with them to Ottawa and on to Pekin, Illinois, where he remained till peace was once more restored. In August, 1832, they returned to their home in LaSalle county, and through the exercise of his excellent business ability and unflagging industry he became a large landholder. He followed farming and stock-raising throughout his entire life and was one of the worthy pioneer settlers who aided in laying the foundations for the present prosperity in Grundy

county. He was a well-known citizen, greatly respected by his many friends.

Abraham Holderman, whose name introduces this review, was only nine years of age when he accompanied his parents to Illinois, where he was reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier, enduring the usual hardships and trials which fall to the lot of the pioneer settlers. During his boyhood he assisted in the arduous task of the development of the new farm and when twenty-three years of age he began farming on his own account. At that time his father gave him a plow and harness and the use of all the land he could work, with the admonition, "Earn your own money and you will know how to prize it; but if you want any help at any time come to me." Borrowing seven hundred dollars of William Hoge, afterward his father-in-law, Mr. Holderman joined his brother Barton in the operation of a farm of two hundred and forty acres in the town of Felix—property owned by the father. At the end of two years the brothers divided the profits, and Mr. Holderman, of this review, found himself in possession of eighteen hundred dollars. He was then married, on the 4th of May, 1847, to Miss Mary E. Hoge, daughter of William and Rachel Hoge. She was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, August 17, 1827, and with her parents came to Grundy county in the fall of 1831. She was to her husband a faithful companion and helpmeet and their home was brightened and blessed by the presence of five children, namely: A. J., Albert H., Martha J., Landy S. and Samuel D.

In 1849 Mr. Holderman removed to Errienna township, Grundy county, locating upon a quarter section of land which he had purchased at three dollars per acre. He at once began to develop and cultivate his tract and soon transformed it into rich and fertile fields. He also carried on stock-raising and was very prosperous in his undertakings, winning a high degree of success. From year to year, as his financial resources increased, he added to his possessions until he became one of the largest landholders in the state. He also continued stock-raising on an extensive scale and was recognized as one of the leading representatives in these lines of business in central Illinois. His business methods were so honorable that he enjoyed the confidence and good will of all, and the most envious could not grudge him his success, so worthily had it been acquired.

Mr. Holderman exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, but took no active part in political affairs aside from holding a few minor offices, the most important of which was that of town supervisor. He preferred to devote his energies to the business which fully occupied his time and to which he gave his attention up to the time of his death. His demise was the result of an accident, being

thrown from a buggy and so injured that he died November 27, 1887. He was hospitable and social by nature, progressive as a citizen, liberal in support of all measures for the public good and was uniformly respected. His widow still survives him and at this writing is residing on the old homestead—an estimable lady whose many excellent qualities obtained her a large circle of friends.

JOHN HOLDERMAN.

There is no better blood in the mixture which animates the men and women of America than that of Pennsylvania; and no sturdier men, no nobler women, have come to the west than those who found their way over the mountains to Ohio and scattered over her sister states. One of the most noteworthy and most respectable representatives of this good old stock in Grundy county, was the man whose name heads this sketch.

Mr. Holderman, who during his life here was a farmer and stock-raiser on section 12, Goose Lake township, this county, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1827, the third child of John Holderman, a native of Pennsylvania, who married Elizabeth Blickenstaff, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Crull) Blickenstaff, of Maryland. His father was a farmer of Vandalia, Montgomery county, Ohio, and died there in 1850; his mother died in Kansas, about twenty-five years later. John and Elizabeth (Blickenstaff) Holderman had ten children, of whom only John and Elizabeth are living. Mary married John Patty, of Montgomery county, Ohio, and died at Pleasant Hill, Miami county, that state. She was the mother of three children, one of whom is living. Magdalene died unmarried at Battle Creek, Michigan. Jacob lived in Grundy county, Illinois, for eight or nine years and moved to Kansas, where he died. He married Charlotte Smith and they had six children, four of whom are living. Elizabeth is living, unmarried, at Emporia, Kansas. Elliott R. was a banker, farmer and cattle-raiser at Emporia, where he died, in which city also Daniel W. completed his days on earth. He married Carrie Rand, and afterward Hannah M. Gracey. Lavina died at the age of six years. David lived to be over ten years. Harriet, who died at the age of thirty-four years, was the wife of Dr. Kemp, of Dayton, Ohio, and bore him a son, named Charles H.

John Holderman, the subject of this notice, remained in his native town in Montgomery county, Ohio, until he was twenty-one years of age, then removed to Noble county, Indiana, and lived there a short time, and in 1852 came to Grundy county, settling in Felix, now Goose Lake, township, on the farm which he occupied until his death, January 8, 1900, from a disease of the heart. Here for forty-eight years he was engaged in farming

and stock-raising, accumulating a large amount of property. His residence was one of the best of its class in the county. His methods of dealing were honorable and his success was most worthily won. His character so strongly commended him to his fellow townsmen that he was twice elected supervisor of Goose Lake township; and he served also in the office of commissioner.

He was married in 1860, to Phebe Patty, a daughter of James and Margaret (Beck) Patty, of Montgomery county, Ohio. James Patty died at his home in Ohio, in March, 1896, aged eighty-three years. His wife survives, still living in Montgomery county, Ohio, at the advanced age of eighty-eight. This worthy couple had four sons and six daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter are deceased. John and Phebe (Patty) Holderman have had seven children, all of whom were born in Goose Lake township, and whose names are Margaret Elizabeth, John Franklin, Mary Bell, James Edward, Phebe Ella, Martha Harriet and Charles Elliott. Elizabeth married Willis Caldwell, of Broken Bow, Nebraska, and has children named Eva Phebe, Ray Holderman, John Willis and Gaius George. John F. is living, unmarried, on the old homestead. Mary B. holds the office of county superintendent of public schools of Grundy county, Illinois, performing its duties ably and conscientiously and to the satisfaction of teachers, school officials, pupils and parents. P. Ella developed a decided talent for music, received a musical education and is at this time a successful teacher of music in Chicago. M. Harriet is a teacher of public-school music and drawing. James E. died at the age of sixteen years; and Charles E. died in childhood. The children who have been brought up in this family are an honor to their parents, and such a legacy of intelligence and good intent left by the parents is better to the world than millions in money. Mr. Holderman, the father, must have had great satisfaction in the evening of his life in the contemplation of his success in his career, and the testimony given by his neighbors in various ways verify this estimate of his character. His remains were buried in Evergreen cemetery at Morris, Illinois, a place sacred to many departed friends of the family. Mrs. Holderman survives to enjoy a while longer in this life the result of the glorious prestige left by her honored husband and also that which she has herself established by her faithful service in the obligations of life that devolved upon her.

BARTON HOLDERMAN.

In pioneer days this gentleman came to Illinois and through the period of early development of this section of the state he was actively identified with the work of progress and improvement. His name is thus inseparably

connected with the history of Grundy county, and it is with pleasure that we present the record of his career to the readers of this volume.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Ross county, June 1, 1816, and died in Mississippi about 1893. His father was Abraham Holderman, a pioneer settler of Kendall county, Illinois. Our subject spent his early boyhood days in the Badger state and with his parents came to Illinois in 1831, the family locating in Kendall county, where he attained his majority. He married Miss Charity White, a daughter of Silas White, who came from Pennsylvania to LaSalle county, Illinois. They began their domestic life in Felix township, Grundy county, where Mr. Holderman carried on agricultural pursuits until 1851. Attracted by the discovery of gold on the Pacific slope, he crossed the plains to California, where he engaged in prospecting and mining for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Grundy county and in 1853 removed his family to Missouri, locating on a farm in Bates county. His first wife had died in 1849, leaving three children, namely: Harriet Amanda, wife of Lewis Adams, now of Oklahoma; Samuel, deceased; and William B. In 1853 Barton Holderman wedded Alice Adams and they became the parents of two children, of whom one is now living, John H., a resident of Lyon county, Kansas. The mother died in Missouri about 1855, and again Mr. Holderman was married, Jane Feely becoming his wife. They had three children, who are still living—Artie Jane, Norrice Dyson and Addie May. About 1890 Mr. Holderman removed with his family to Mississippi and was identified with the agricultural interests of that state until his death. His widow now makes her home there.

William Byron Holderman, who now represents the family in Grundy county and is a leading and influential citizen of Morris, was born in Grundy county, September 21, 1848, and at the age of five years accompanied his father on his removal to Missouri. There he was reared on a farm and acquired his education in the common schools. Having arrived at man's estate, he was married, in Missouri, in 1871, to Miss Ruth Pyatt, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois. Four children grace their union—Cynthia Jane, Martha Belle, Laura Caroline and Harriet Gertrude.

In 1872 Mr. Holderman returned to Grundy county and secured a farm, continuing to work it until 1888, when he removed to Morris. In September, 1895, he purchased an interest in the "Grundy County Grocery Store" and has since been engaged in the grocery business. In September, 1898, he became the sole proprietor and is now conducting a large store, well supplied with a complete line of staple and fancy groceries. His business methods are honorable and commend him to the confidence of all.

By his earnest desire to please and his marked energy he has secured a liberal patronage which brings him a good income. He exercises his right of franchise in the support of the men and measures of the Democratic party.

SAMUEL D. HOLDERMAN.

A son of Abraham and Mary E. (Hoge) Holderman, the gentleman whose name heads this sketch was born in Grundy county, July 21, 1865. In the public schools he obtained his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the Morris Normal, and thus well fitted for the practical duties of life he entered upon his business career as a farmer. During his boyhood he had become familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and throughout his career he has engaged in the work of the fields. Everything about his place is neat and attractive in appearance. He occupies the old homestead, which is endeared to him by the associations of his boyhood as well as those of his later years. As a farmer he is wide awake and practical, and the well tilled fields and substantial buildings indicate his careful supervision and his thrift and enterprise. Success has already attended him in his efforts and will doubtless bring to him still further financial reward in the future.

In 1896 was celebrated the marriage of Samuel D. Holderman and Miss Mae E. Wilcox, a daughter of Dr. George G. Wilcox, of Seneca, Illinois. The young couple have made many friends in this locality and enjoy the hospitality of many of the best homes in this section of the county. In his political views Mr. Holderman is a Republican, warmly espousing the principles of the party. He is now serving as town supervisor, and the efficient and prompt manner in which he discharges his duty has won him the commendation of the public.

FRANK SYKES.

An example of the progressive, practical young farmer of this period may be found in the person of Frank Sykes, a well known and highly respected citizen of Grundy county. He is a son of Thomas H. and Betty (Cryer) Sykes, whose sketch may be found elsewhere in this work, together with a history of the family. The young man was reared on a farm in Wauponsee township and in the town of Morris, Grundy county, and from his boyhood has been thoroughly familiar with the details of agriculture. When arriving at man's estate he decided to follow the calling to which

his father had devoted his life, and by strict application to business and adherence to the systematic methods which had been inculcated in him in youth he has prospered. He now resides upon a portion of the old family homestead in Wauponsee township, and has made substantial improvements upon the place. In addition to being a successful farmer, he is an excellent natural mechanic and practical engineer. During the harvesting season he operates a corn-sheller and threshing machine, thus earning a snug little sum each year, which he carefully invests.

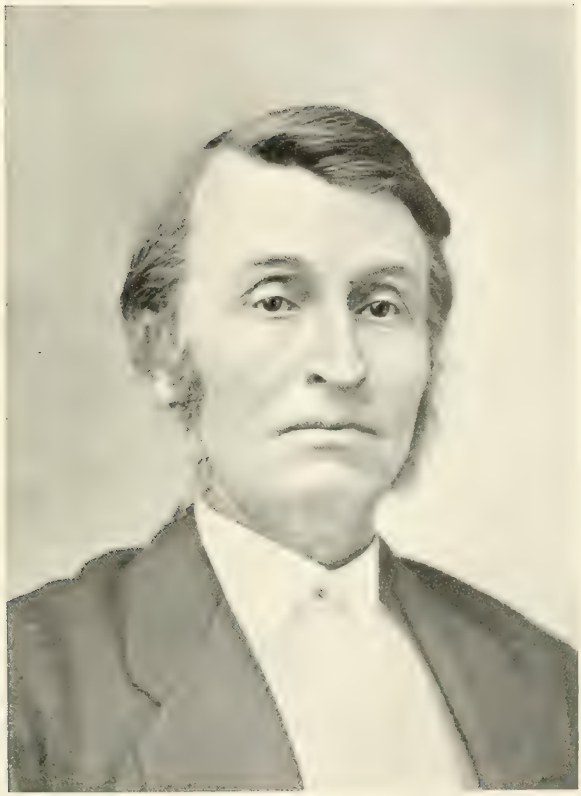
Mr. Sykes obtained a liberal education in the public schools of this county, and by reading and observation has continually widened his mental horizon ever since the completion of his studies. He is well posted on the important political issues of the day and uses his franchise in favor of the platform and nominees of the Republican party. In every way he endeavors to maintain good government, and while he never neglects his own business affairs he finds time to perform the duties which he believes he owes to the public and his own community in particular.

He was united in marriage, February 28, 1899, to Clara Crellin, a daughter of Thomas H. and Angela (Weldon) Crellin, well known, estimable citizens of this county. The young couple have a pleasant home and the sincere good wishes of a large circle of friends for their future happiness and prosperity.

HON. GEORGE W. ARMSTRONG.

"Wash" Armstrong, as he is called by all who know him, is the second son of Joseph and Elsie Armstrong and was born upon their farm on the east fork of the Licking, in Licking county, Ohio, December 11, 1812, and came to Illinois with his mother and family in the spring of 1831 and located upon the farm where he still resides, in 1833. A part of this farm lies in Grundy county and the balance in LaSalle county, and his residence is in the latter. His father was born in the county of Fermanagh in the north of Ireland and came to the United States with his father's family in 1789 and settled in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, when but ten years old; and his mother, whose maiden name was Strawn (she being a sister of the late Jacob Strawn, the early cattle king of the west), was of Pennsylvania Quaker stock.

This branch of the Armstrongs are of Scotch descent and crossed over the channel dividing Scotland and Ireland in the sixteenth century. The origin of the name Armstrong, according to the family tradition, sprang from the heroic and daring act of one Fairbeon, who was the armorer to one of the early kings of Scotland, whose horse was killed in battle with



Yours &c Geo. Whitmarsh

the British, falling upon and breaking one of the king's legs, thus imprisoning him, when Fairbeon, seeing the imminent danger of his sovereign, cut his way through the British lines and rescued him, then passing one arm around the king's body under his arms, with his sword in the other hand, and the king being supplied with a second sword, they fought their way to safety. Whereupon Fairbeon was created and dubbed Knight of the Strong Arm, but subsequently changed to Armstrong; and the king conferred upon him a castle with a large territory on the south border of Scotland, with a coat-of-arms which consisted of three uplifted hands, each holding a drawn sword, emblematic of the heroism of Fairbeon. This is substantially the tradition of the origin of the "Armstrongs of the Border," which became a powerful clan in the south of Scotland.

The subject of this sketch, though untaught, is far from being unlettered in point of education. In the broader meaning of the word he is a master, but his mastery is self-acquired and self-taught. His school days were few indeed, but the light of the dip tallow candle and the bark of the shell-bark hickory of evenings supplied the place of the log-cabin schoolhouse of his school age. True he never studied English grammar or the higher mathematics, nor did he ever read novels or fool away his time over fiction. History, philosophy, chemistry, astronomy and political economy were his special favorites. Though not a professor of religion, he seldom if ever used profane or obscene language; nor did he ever use tobacco in any form, and was never known to play a game of cards or any other game of chance. Fond of music, yet he never could sing; and we doubt whether he could tell the difference between Auld Lang Syne and Old Hundred; and we have often heard him say that all his dancing was done under the influence of a switch—in his mother's hand! He never had the inclination to hunt, fish, play ball, wrestle or indulge in any other boyish sports or amusements; hence he was called the "Old Man Armstrong," even when he had not passed his 'teens. A born mechanic, he always, from the time he was a dozen years old, could make almost anything in wood, iron or leather, and at the age of sixteen he ran the leading machinery of his father's woolen factory; and when eighteen years old he became the general manager of the entire factory.

On the 10th of March, 1835, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Green, of Morgan county, Illinois, who was a helpmate in every sense of that word and ably assisted him in educating and raising his seven sons and two daughters. All of them are still living except their oldest son, John G., who was a lawyer but drifted into the newspaper business as correspondent and editor, was generally known by his nom de plume "Bemus," and died at his home in Ottawa in 1890. Their other children are William,

who was a captain in the war of the Rebellion and now lives in Colorado; Rev. Julius C., who is the general superintendent of city missions of the Congregational churches of Chicago; Eliza R., the wife of William Crotty, Esq., of Burlington, Kansas; Joseph L., who lives on the old homestead; Marshall N., a prominent lawyer of Ottawa, Illinois; Susan I., the wife of L. B. Laughlin, of South Dakota; James E., the principal of the Englewood high school of Chicago; and Charles G., who is the state electrician and engineer and lives in Chicago, and is one of the leading electricians of the United States.

During the early settlement of northern Illinois there were no sawmills within a radius of fifty miles of Mr. Armstrong's residence and all the lumber used was hauled overland from Chicago. This induced Mr. Armstrong to erect a sawmill on the Waupecan at the point where the present bridge now stands—at the crossing of that creek on the river road—in 1836. Immediately west of this mill-site and upon the west bank of the Waupecan, the late Augustus H. Owen and Jacob Claypool laid out a town and called it Hidalgo. Here Mr. Armstrong erected a double log cabin and occupied it as a store and a dwelling, and he also built a log cabin for a blacksmith shop. But the Waupecan proved to be a thunder-shower stream, and the name was too big for the town to carry; hence he left both to "innocuous desuetude" and went to canal-digging at Utica, Illinois, in 1837, removing his stock of dry goods and blacksmith tools, together with his family, to that place. His canal contract was rock excavation, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars. Upon the completion of this work he returned to his farm and has remained there continuously ever since. He assisted in laying out the original town of Morris, as well as Chapin's addition to the town of Morris, and has been the owner of a large number of lots therein, as shown by the records. When the work on the Morris bridge was stopped for want of funds his individual note brought the needed money. So, too, with the old Hopkin's house; his money built it and he was compelled to take the title as security. He was the first president of the Morris Bridge Company, as well as the Seneca Bridge Company.

His legislative service began by his election as a representative from Grundy and LaSalle counties in 1844, and he is the only survivor of that body of seventy-five members. His next experience as a lawmaker was as a delegate from said Grundy and LaSalle counties in the constitutional convention of 1847, of which body of eminent men he and Governor Palmer are the only survivors. He was again a member of the house of representatives several sessions up to 1878. A ready and forceful debater and the universally admitted best parliamentarian of the state, he was a leader of every session of the legislature of which he was a member. Though

a stanch Democrat, he was quite as popular with his political opponents as with his own party, because he was always courteous and eminently fair in his action upon all questions with all parties, though firm and what was deemed "a good fighter." He represented his town of Brookfield in the board of supervisors of LaSalle county over twenty years and was the chairman thereof some sixteen years, and was the chairman of the court-house and jail building committee, who erected the present county building in Ottawa. He was also the agent who secured the right of way for the Seneca & Kankakee Railroad and was the Democratic nominee against the late Owen Lovejoy for congress in 1858, but was defeated.

A peacemaker and general arbitrator of all neighborhood difficulties all his life, and so sympathetic for others' wants, that he has paid out fortunes as bondsman and endorser of other men's obligations; yet he managed to keep his farm and educate his children and still have a competence; and though in his eighty-eighth year his small, lithe body stands as erect as when but twenty-one years old. If he ever had an enemy he was a silent one, for we never heard a single word against him or his motives. His wife crossed the silent river some seven years ago, and, his life work being finished, he is simply waiting for the summons to follow her to the home of the silent. Meanwhile—

"Earth's hold on him grows slighter,
And the heavy burdens lighter,
And the dawn immortal brighter,
Every day."

ALBERT E. HOGE.

Few citizens of Nettle Creek township are better known or more justly esteemed than A. E. Hoge, who has been a life-long resident in this neighborhood, and actively associated with its upbuilding and development from his early years. Quiet and retiring in disposition, yet not without a strong force of character, he has led a simple, unpretentious life as a matter of choice, and has never been remiss in the performance of his duties as a patriot and neighbor, as a relative and friend.

The birth of this worthy citizen took place on the old family homestead belonging to his parents, February 2, 1840. The latter, William and Rachel Hoge, who are represented elsewhere in this work, were among the pioneers of Nettle Creek township, and the Hoge family, in particular, has played a very important part in the founding and maintaining of Grundy county,

which in many respects now ranks among the foremost counties of this great state.

When a mere boy, Albert E. Hoge was initiated into the arduous duties of the western farmer, and the habits of industry and perseverance in anything which he undertook having been strongly ingrained in his nature, he has clung to them in later life. He has never resided elsewhere than on a portion of his father's estate, and, as he was next to the youngest of nine children, he was looked to for advice and assistance long after the elder members of the family had flown from the home nest and founded homes of their own. His elementary education was gained in the district schools, and the old log building in which he spent many a weary hour mastering the intricacies of the "three R's" is yet standing on a corner of his present farm. This historic school-house, which enjoys the honor of being the oldest school-house in Grundy county, was dubbed in later years by an irreverent generation "Woodville College."

Besides carrying on general farming and raising the usual line of crops common to this region, Mr. Hoge has been engaged for years in the raising and feeding of live stock, and has met with gratifying financial success in this undertaking. He has never married, though all of his eight brothers and sisters set him an example otherwise. His personal expenses thus being small, he has invested his means in landed estates to the extent of about one thousand acres. In fact, his homestead comprises nine hundred and sixty-one acres, in one body, finely improved, and considered as good land as can be found in the county. Within the past few years he has given up some of his active cares to others, but still supervises the management of his large property. His ice-house, which was built in 1857, is the oldest one in Grundy county, and, with the exception of three winters, there has not been a season since its completion that it has not been filled to its full capacity with ice. Our subject's home is comfortable and pleasant, a large selection of books, magazines and papers adding to its attractiveness. In political opinions he is a Republican, but he is in no sense a politician, and frequently has declined to accept official positions, when they have been urged upon him.

HENDLEY HOGE.

For years an honored resident of Nettle Creek township, Grundy county, but now of Morris, Mr. Hendley Hoge has frequently been called upon by his fellow citizens to officiate in local offices of responsibility and trust; and though he has always strongly preferred to remain in the private walks of life, he has sacrificed his personal wishes in favor of his friends, and

has thoroughly justified their good opinion as to his ability and integrity. Identified from his earliest recollections with agricultural pursuits, he is heartily in sympathy with the farmer and is considered a practical exponent of the progressive agriculturist of the period.

The birth of Hendley Hoge occurred in Nettle Creek township, July 14, 1840, and for twenty-five years he remained on his father's old homestead. After his marriage he removed to his present fine farm, which is situated in his native township, and, as the years passed, his industry and excellent business management were rewarded by increasing wealth. He now owns seven hundred acres of splendid farm land in this county, and a quarter section in Champaign county, besides having given to each of his children a hundred and sixty acre farm. Good improvements are to be found upon his homestead, and everything is conducted in a careful, systematic manner, worthy of emulation. During the present year Mr. Hoge erected a modern and excellent residence in Morris.

Mr. Hoge is a gentleman possessing a broad mind and liberal education, as, after completing the course of study prescribed in the schools of his native place, it was his privilege to attend college at Ypsilanti, Michigan, and in later life he has endeavored to keep abreast of the times in every possible manner. A Republican in politics, he cast his first presidential ballot in favor of Abraham Lincoln, and ever since has been faithful to the principles of his party. He has acted in the capacities of township assessor and township supervisor, and gave general satisfaction to all concerned.

The marriage of Mr. Hoge and Virginia Silcott was celebrated December 15, 1864. They have two children, Edgar S., who married Anna Anderson and resides in Champaign county, this state, and Laura M., who is the wife of Fred L. Stevens, of Morris, Illinois. Mrs. Hoge is a daughter of Craven and Elizabeth Silcott, both of whom were natives of Virginia.

LANDY S. HOGE.

The family of which this gentleman is a representative is so well known throughout Grundy county that he needs no special introduction to the readers of this volume. A son of Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge, he was born in Nettle Creek township, Grundy county, on the 2d of February, 1864. His boyhood days were spent on the home farm and he early became familiar with the labors of field and meadow. His preliminary education was acquired in the common schools and was supplemented by a course in the Morris Normal. He now owns the old homestead which belonged to his parents and resided there until the fall of 1899, when he re-

moved to Morris, his present place of residence. Since attaining his majority he has always carried on agricultural pursuits and yet owns large landed interests, his property yielding to him a good income.

In 1888 Mr. Hoge was united in marriage to Miss Maggie, a daughter of John McCambridge, and their union has been blessed with three children—Hildegarde, Zitta and Uneze. Mr. Hoge gives his political support to the Republican party and is interested in its success, yet has never aspired to public office. He is a representative business man and citizen, and in business affairs is energetic, prompt and notably reliable. Tireless energy, keen discernment, honesty of purpose, a genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time, joined to every-day common sense—these are the chief characteristics of the man.

WILLIAM M. HOGE.

Though a young man, only a few years past his majority, William M. Hoge, of Nettle Creek township, is enjoying a measure of success that the majority of men, even a decade or more his senior, would be glad to possess. The energy and determination he has always manifested in business affairs have brought their just reward, and as high principles animate him in all his dealings he commands the respect of all of his neighbors and acquaintances.

The birth of William M. Hoge occurred on the old homestead owned by his parents, July 24, 1869. The history of that worthy couple, Joshua and Elizabeth (Gregg) Hoge, is printed elsewhere in this work. The entire life of our subject has been spent on the old home place. In his boyhood he attended the schools of this district, and later supplemented his education by a course of study in the Morris Normal.

Endowed with a natural talent for mechanics, Mr. Hoge has become a practical engineer, and for the past twelve years has operated a traction engine during the threshing season. In this manner he has added not a little to his income and has been enabled to institute many valuable improvements on his farm, which is one of the most desirable pieces of property in this section of the county.

Like his forefathers, Mr. Hoge has no aspirations to public office, but is a loyal Republican. Fraternally, he is identified with the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Globe, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Rathbone Sisters. He was married in 1891, to Bertha Munson, and the young couple's pleasant home is brightened by the presence of one child, Robert

Burton, who was born August 7, 1892. They have numerous friends and are representative citizens of their community.

ISAAC HOGE.

In the annals of Grundy county the name which our subject bears is frequently found, and the important place which he and his family have held since the days of the pioneer in this region is too generally recognized to need special mention. One of the marked characteristics of his race is a cordial hospitality, well worthy of the old Virginian people, among whom his ancestors were classed, perhaps less than a century ago. He possesses the ambition and enterprise of the foremost men of this stirring age, and stands for progress and public spirit in his own community.

The birth of Isaac Hoge occurred July 25, 1850, in this county, his parents being Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge, well known and highly esteemed agriculturists. When he had arrived at a suitable age, our subject commenced attending the local schools, there laying the foundations of his education. Subsequently he entered Lombard University, at Galesburg, Illinois, and in due course of time was graduated in the scientific department of that honored institution of learning. Desiring to further qualify himself for the active business of life, the young man then went to Chicago, where he was a student in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College for a period.

His thorough preparation for his future being now finished, young Hoge returned home and resumed the farm duties to which he had been accustomed since his boyhood. For a number of years he carried on stock-feeding, upon an extensive scale, but at present he devotes himself more exclusively to regular farming. Gradually, as fortune favored him, he invested in land, until he is now the possessor of eighteen hundred acres of valuable land, with excellent improvements. In public matters he never fails to manifest the interest that every true American should feel, and in local affairs he uses his franchise in favor of the best man, regardless of party. In national elections he is a strong Republican. For twelve years he acted in the capacity of supervisor of his township, giving general satisfaction to his constituents and neighbors.

The first wife of Mr. Hoge, to whom he was united in marriage in 1874, was Miss Mary Peacock. She died in 1887, leaving five children to mourn her loss, namely: Elma, Mary M., Margaret, Edna and Charles, all of whom are living upon the old homestead with our subject. Landy S., the youngest child, died in infancy. In 1889 Mr. Hoge married Mrs. Laura Watters, a

daughter of Hiram and Sarah Thayer, who were natives of New York state. Three children have blessed this union—Mildred, Mina and Isaac, Jr. The family residence is modern and comfortable in all of its appointments, and generous hospitality abounds within its walls.

WILLIAM ELDER ARMSTRONG.

The name of no man living or dead is so intimately connected with and interwoven in the early history of Grundy county and the city of Morris as that of William E. Armstrong, from its inception, birth and christening to the time of his death. He was the third son of Joseph and Elsie (nee Strawn) Armstrong, and was born upon the farm of his parents in Licking county, Ohio, October 25, 1814, and died while visiting his mother at her farm home, in the town of Deer Park, LaSalle county, Illinois, November 2, 1850. He was a man of untiring energy and indomitable will power, and though slightly above medium size he was a giant in physical strength and intellect. While educated in the broader sense of the word, his school days were few and confined to the neighborhood log schoolhouse, where the entire course of studies was embraced in the boy's "three R's"—"Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic." His labor was confined to the farm and the raising and caring for stock. He was a famous speller and attended every spelling-school of the vicinity, and was always first choice.

He came to Illinois with his mother and six brothers, in April, 1831, and located first near where Lacon, Illinois, now stands, and in August of that year they located in what is now the town of Deer Park, in LaSalle county, where he remained until reaching his majority. When volunteers were called for to defend the women and children of the pioneers from the bloody tomahawk of the merciless savage in the Black Hawk war of 1832, he was among the first to respond, though but seventeen years old, and was accepted and mustered into service in Captain McFadden's company, and performed much dangerous scouting duty and remained in the service until that war was over.

In the month of November, 1835, by the assistance of his mother, he and his younger brother, Joel W., purchased a stock of dry goods located in South Ottawa and converted it into a general store. As the country was rapidly filling up, the demand for, and sale of, such goods became very good and the venture was a grand financial success. He was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Ann, a daughter of the late Judge Joel Strawn, on the 6th day of February, 1836, and immediately commenced housekeeping in South Ottawa. To them were born two daughters: Jemima E., now

the wife of James S. Doolittle, of Chatsworth, Illinois; and Emma D., now the wife of George Hardy, of Goodland, Indiana. His wife died in 1847 and was buried in the family lot in the Ottawa cemetery and by her side sleep the remains of her husband. She was a most estimable woman as wife, mother, neighbor and friend.

The business of the Armstrong firm soon increased to such a degree that a larger store room must be had, hence they erected a large wooden building near the Sulphur Spring in South Ottawa, which was then the principal part of that town, using a part for their store and the balance for a hotel; and Mr. Armstrong obtained a charter from the legislature to run a ferry across the Illinois river at that place; and as their freight bills were heavy—for they bought nearly all their goods in St. Louis—they built a steamboat, which they christened "The Ottawa." It was a stern-wheeler of light draft and proved a failure; it was run aground near Starved Rock and never raised. Thus Captain Armstrong lost his boat and title of captain, for he was too much of a man to carry the name "Captain." He seldom spoke of his steamboat adventure after leaving it sunk in the river, but turned his attention from steamboating to canal-building and became the contractor for the construction of several miles of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, at the letting of contracts, in the spring of 1837. His contracts were scattered from Utica in LaSalle county to Morris in Grundy county. Having finished up his canal contracts at Ottawa, Buffalo Rock and Utica, he turned his attention to his two sections at or near where Morris now stands.

But the distance from Ottawa to the north and east lines of LaSalle county impressed him strongly of the desirability of a division of the then enormously large county of LaSalle; and upon conferring with the late Jacob Claypool and other leading men he learned that several efforts had been made in that direction, all of which had failed for want of definiteness. He thereupon determined to petition the state legislature for two new counties, one to be taken from the east side of LaSalle county, to be called Grundy, in honor of the late Felix Grundy, of Tennessee, and the other to be taken from the north side of the county, to be called Kendall, in honor of Amos Kendall, late postmaster-general. Having prepared such a petition in the fall of 1840, he was ably assisted in their circulation by his elder brother, Hon. George W. Armstrong, and the late L. W. Claypool and others. Having obtained the signatures of nearly every legal voter in the districts to be affected, he personally took them to Springfield when the legislature convened that winter and presented them to that body, which granted the prayer of the petition by the passage of the act creating these two counties; and the act became a law on the 17th of February, 1841. This enactment provided

for the holding of an election at the house of Columbus Pinney on section 7, township 33, range 7, better known as "Castle Dangerous," on the fourth Monday in May, 1841, for county officers.

Mr. Armstrong moved his family from Ottawa to where Morris now stands in March of that year, and occupied a double log cabin standing where the gas works now are, and begun active work on his canal contracts here. He became a candidate for sheriff at that election but was defeated by the late Isaac Hoge, who declined to qualify; and at a special election held for that office in the following November Mr. Armstrong was elected to that position and re-elected several times thereafter, practically without opposition. The shrievalty was by far the best county office, for he was ex-officio collector of all the taxes.

Under the act creating Grundy county the seat of justice was required to be located upon canal land and upon the line of said canal, and Messrs. W. B. Burnett (chief engineer of the canal), Rufus S. Duryea, of Yorkville, and Mr. Armstrong were appointed commissioners to act in conjunction with the then three canal commissioners to locate such seat of justice. These commissioners met soon after their appointment and upon examination found but two points eligible—sections 7 and 9, township 33, range 7. Section 9 is centrally located, while section 7 is two miles west of the center of the county from east to west. But a small portion of section 9 lies on the canal line or north of the Illinois river, while section 7 is nearly all north of the river. Hence the canal commissioners voted for section 7, while the other three voted for section 9. In point of elevation and adjoining country, section 9 is vastly superior to section 7. Thus the commissioners were in a deadlock until General Thornton was succeeded by Hon. Isaac N. Morris, who after viewing the two places voted in favor of section 9, which settled the question and the county seat; and upon motion of Mr. Armstrong it was named Morris, in honor of his vote. The final decision was not reached until April 12, 1842. Thus from the fourth Monday in May, 1841, to the 12th of April, 1842, Grundy county was without a seat of justice. In the meantime court was held at Mr. Armstrong's cabin home, and all the county officers located their offices there, and Mr. Armstrong established and ran a ferry across the river at that point. He also erected at his own private cost a wooden building for a court-house, and a fairly good-sized building for a hotel, which he named Grundy Hotel. This he occupied and operated himself. This hotel furnished food and lodging to many of the leading men of Illinois of that period, among whom were Lincoln, Douglas, Ford, Reynolds, Wentworth and Judges Young, Smith, Henderson, Caton, David Davis, etc.

Upon his last canal contracts Mr. Armstrong lost nearly everything, on

account of the depreciation in value of what was known as canal scrip, which he was compelled to take at their face value for the work he did. This scrip declined in commercial value as low as twenty-eight cents to the dollar!

They were printed on the back of the defunct State Bank of Illinois' bills after cutting off the names of the president and cashier. The following is a literal copy of one of these due bills or canal scrip:

"V CANAL INDEBTEDNESS. 5.

No. 28.

"Due from the Board of Commissioners of the Illinois and Michigan "Canal for work done on said canal, Five Dollars, which they promise to "pay the bearer of this when funds are provided for that purpose.

"Lockport, Feby. 1st, 1842.

"J. Manning, Secretary. Jacob Fry, Act. Com."

No funds were provided to pay these state obligations until long after Mr. Armstrong's death, notwithstanding the state was legally bound to redeem every dollar of their pledges with interest from and after their presentation. Trusting and relying upon the fulfillment of these promises, he prosecuted his contract to completion, taking the canal scrip at par for his work and paying his men in good money for their labor, thus losing over seventy cents upon every dollar he received! In this way was he robbed without redress, save through legislative enactment, which he sought in vain. He was forced to dispose of his canal scrip as best he could for the money to pay his labor, etc. He finally brought suit against the state, but the case was continued time and time again. Sick of the law's delay, and broken down with vexation, the end came as before stated.

Taken all in all, he was the finest specimen of physical and mental manhood we ever knew. Quick to perceive and prompt to act, he could devise ways and means to accomplish the most stupendous results when other men would yield in despair. Whatever he attempted to do, he did, if within the power of mortal man to do it, yet he was so kindly-hearted and of such a loving disposition that every child who knew him would clamber all over him. He was a born leader of men and his influence was so great among the people of his county that he was known far and near as the "Emperor of Grundy."

HENRY STOCKER.

From the Fatherland came the ancestors of this gentleman. Prominently connected with affairs in Germany, they at length determined to seek a home in America and some of the present representatives of the name are

now among the leading citizens of Grundy county. Henry Stocker was born in Chicago, July 21, 1856, a son of George and Ellen (Diehl) Stocker. His father was a native of Baden, Germany, born October 28, 1828, and in 1849 crossed the Atlantic to the new world. Before his emigration he had learned the cooper's trade, and on arriving in this country he secured work in a cooperage establishment in New York city, but believing he would find better opportunities for advancement in the west he located in Chicago, where he became a foreman in the cooper shop of the Lill & Diversy Brewing Company. He remained with that firm until 1857, when he came to Morris. Two months after his arrival in Chicago Mr. Stocker sent for his parents, two brothers and a sister, who took passage in a vessel that was wrecked off the coast of the West Indies. The members of the Stocker family were among those saved, and with others they reached the isle of Nassau in their lifeboats. Subsequently a passing vessel carried them to Charleston, South Carolina, and later they came to Illinois. Members of the Stocker family had taken part in the Baden revolution and for this reason much of their property was confiscated by the German government. It was this which had led them to seek a home in America. They left the Fatherland with little of this world's riches, and when they were shipwrecked they lost nearly all that had remained to them. The grandparents of our subject with their two sons and daughter joined their son George in Chicago and with him came to Morris, where they spent their last days. Their son Charles enlisted in the Union army during the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Jonesboro. William Stocker, the other son, also joined the army and returned home with shattered health, which resulted in his death in 1874. The daughter married a Mr. Singer, and a few years ago her death occurred in Peoria, Illinois. George Stocker, the father of our subject, was married in Chicago, in 1855, to Ellen Diehl, who was born in Darmstadt, Germany in 1832, and now resides in Morris with her son Henry, having been left a widow July 14, 1887. Mr. Stocker became a member of Star Lodge, No. 75, I. O. O. F., on the 22d of January, 1864, and also belonged to the German Gesang Verein. Unto George and Ellen Stocker were born the following children: Henry; William, who died in 1887; Louis, of Joliet; Carrie, wife of J. D. Owen, of Morris; and Teanie, wife of William Lacard, of Big Grove.

Henry Stocker was educated in the public schools of Morris, and early in life became a clerk and bookkeeper for the shoe and harness firm of Woelfel & Sparr, doing business on Washington street, Morris, in the store now occupied by the firm of Sparr & Stocker. Gradually our subject mastered the business, and in 1884, forming a partnership with William Sparr, succeeded the firm of Woelfel & Sparr, by purchase, and under the firm name of Sparr

& Stocker they have since successfully conducted the store. They now have a large trade and well merit the success which has come to them.

When twenty-four years of age Mr. Stocker was elected alderman of the city, in which capacity he ably served for four years. He has also been city treasurer for two years, was chief of the fire department for ten years, and for the past nine years has been the township school treasurer. He is accounted one of the representative citizens of Morris, whose deep interest in the welfare of the place has been manifested in his efficient service in its behalf. A leading, zealous member of the Masonic fraternity, he belongs to Cedar Lodge, No. 124, F. & A. M., of which he has been master; Orient Chapter, No. 31, R. A. M., of which he has been high priest; Blaney Commandery, No. 5, K. T., of which he has been eminent commander; Medina Temple of the Mystic Shrine, of Chicago, and Laurel Chapter, O. E. S. In his life he exemplifies the humane and benevolent principles of the fraternity and is a leading member of the Masonic order in Morris. During his long residence here he has become widely known and now occupies an enviable position in social, political and business circles.

OLIVER DIX.

The subject of this sketch died February 16, 1900, aged seventy-eight years, one month and eleven days, passing quietly and peacefully away on the home farm which he had entered from the government April 10, 1847. He was well preserved and continued in active business until the early part of 1899. His great activity during life should put to shame many a younger man who, grown weary of the struggles and trials of life, leaves to others burdens that he should bear. Mr. Dix began life a poor boy, met with many hardships and experienced many difficulties, but in pursuance of a determined purpose and well laid plans steadily worked his way upward until his extensive realty holdings of eight hundred acres became the monument of his active and useful life.

Oliver Dix was born in Oneida county, New York, January 5, 1822, a son of Ara and Lydia (Richards) Dix. His paternal grandfather, Charles Dix, was a native of Connecticut and was of Welsh descent. By trade he was a tanner and followed that pursuit through his entire life. He removed from his native state to Oneida county, New York, where his death occurred some years afterward. Ara Dix was born in Connecticut, July 14, 1793, and here spent his boyhood days learning the shoemaker's trade. He accompanied his father to the Empire state, where throughout his business career he followed the pursuit with which he had become familiar during

his minority. He died September 4, 1826, leaving a widow and son, Oliver, who was the only child of their union. Mrs. Dix was born June 18, 1792, and died September 21, 1881. After the death of her first husband she became the wife of J. E. Waterman, of New York, and in 1837 they left that state and removed westward to Kendall county, Illinois. There Mr. Waterman located on a farm which he made his home until his death. After the marriage of her son Oliver, Mrs. Waterman became an inmate of his home and there received loving, filial care and attention until her demise.

Between the ages of five and fifteen years, Oliver Dix spent considerable time in the school-room at Vernon, New York. He then accompanied his father to Kendall county, Illinois, and remained on the farm assisting his stepfather in the cultivation of the fields until twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life for himself. He would rent ten or twenty acres of land of a farmer of the locality and till his fields through the summer months, while in the winter he engaged in teaching. Thus he accumulated money enough to buy some oxen and such farming implements as were in use at that day, after which he began breaking prairie for the neighbors. In the fall, when the work of cultivating the fields was over, he would borrow oxen and do more work in breaking prairie. On one occasion he was employed by John Gray to break some prairie land in Grundy county, and with his four yoke of oxen he traveled to the place where he was to prosecute his labors. As there were no houses in the locality he had to take with him enough food to furnish his own meals. He would make his bed under the plow-beam and thus he slept until his life was endangered by the wolves that were then quite numerous in the neighborhood! This compelled him to change his lodging place to the wagon-bed. In going to and from the field of labor he had nothing to guide him but some stakes which he had previously placed upon the line of his journey, or perhaps a small tree now and then would serve as a landmark. When he had completed the arduous task he returned to Kendall county and harvested his summer crops.

However, in the meantime, Oliver Dix, being well pleased with the land in Grundy county, had determined to seek a home here. Accordingly the following spring he returned and purchased a tract of wild prairie from the government. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he began its development and in the course of time the well tilled fields yielded to him the ripe golden grain. He is perhaps the only purchaser of land from the government who lived upon the original purchase until the present year. With the passing years he continued the task of tilling the soil and improving his place, being actively connected with the agricultural interests of the county until 1899,

when he turned the management of the farm over to his youngest son. He had from time to time added to his land possessions until his real estate aggregated eight hundred acres.

In 1848 Mr. Dix was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Wing, a daughter of Thomas Wing, of Illinois. Their children are as follows: Ara W., who married Mary E. Caldwell, and lives in Nettle Creek township, Grundy county; Orville E., of Iroquois county, who married Elizabeth Riggs, and after her death married Mrs. Matilda Harvey. The mother of these sons died in 1858. Mr. Dix afterward wedded Louisa S. McKinzie, a daughter of William and Sophia (Spillman) McKinzie, a native of Maryland, and the children of this union are: Lydia B., the wife of J. W. Johnson, of Wauponsee township; William O., who married Jennet Wilson and lives in Nettle Creek township; Etta M., the wife of William Caldwell, of Erinna township; Susan Louella, the wife of William C. West, of Kendall county; and George R., who married Maude A. Tinsman, and runs the home farm.

In politics Mr. Dix was a Republican, and in religious faith a Methodist. He was one of the honored and esteemed citizens of his adopted county, for his life was ever such as to merit the public regard. He certainly deserved great credit for his success and justly won the proud American title of a self-made man.

HENRY C. CLAYPOOL.

This gentleman is the popular postmaster of Morris. More than half a century ago his father held the same office, and no student of the history of Grundy county can carry his investigations far in its records without becoming cognizant of the fact that the Claypool family has been one of prominence and influence in the community.

He whose name introduces this review was born in Grundy county, on the 31st of March, 1852. After attending the public schools he graduated at the Morris Classical Institute, and later was a student in a business college; but during much of his youth his time and attention were devoted to the labors of the farm. He carried on agricultural pursuits till thirty years of age, after which he filled the office of deputy county clerk for four years. He then became manager of the Chicago Fire-proofing Company, with which he was connected for a considerable period, and for eight years was the cashier of the Coleman Hardware Company. In March, 1898, he was appointed postmaster of Morris, taking possession of the office on the 1st of April. He is popular with its patrons, owing to his uniform courtesy and obliging disposition, and is a worthy representative of the government.

In 1873 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Claypool and Miss Annie M. Brown, and they now have a daughter, named Carrie M. Their household is noted for its hospitality and the family enjoy the warm regard of a large circle of friends. Mr. Claypool is a member of the Globe Mutual Benefit Association, and in politics has been a stanch Republican since casting his first presidential vote for R. B. Hayes. On attaining his majority he was elected supervisor of Wauponsee township and held that position till 1882, when he removed to the city. In 1893 he was elected the city clerk of Morris and held that position for three successive terms, his administration of its affairs being prompt, reliable and businesslike. Of the Masonic fraternity he is a very prominent member, having taken the initiatory degree in Cedar Lodge, No. 124, F. & A. M., in which for three years he served as master. He also belongs to Orient Chapter, No. 31, R. A. M., in which he has been a high priest; the Blaney Commandery, No. 5, K. T., and the Laurel Chapter, No. 145, O. E. S. His entire life has been passed in Grundy county, where he has a very wide acquaintance and enjoys the friendship of many who have known him from boyhood—a fact which indicates that his career has been an honorable and upright one.

HON. PERRY A. ARMSTRONG.

The gentleman who constitutes the subject of this brief sketch was born in Licking county, Ohio, April 15, 1823, and came to Illinois with his mother and brothers in the spring of 1831. He is the seventh son of Joseph and Elsie Armstrong. His early opportunities for an education were poor, but he possessed an inquiring mind and retentive memory and acquired a fairly good but not classic education at the Granville (Illinois) Academy and Illinois College, paying his way by working Saturdays and teaching school and laboring at farm work during vacations.

The day he was twenty years old he came to Morris with the intention of making it his home. Like Japheth in search of a father, he came on foot and alone and "across lots," carrying all his worldly goods (which included Blackstone's Commentaries) in a cotton bandana handkerchief, and two smooth Mexican quarters in his pocket, expecting to make law his profession; but an accident happened to him, from which he narrowly escaped with his life, being thrown in the Illinois river by the sinking of a ferry-boat while trying to ferry a lot of cattle over the river at Morris, which resulted in a severe attack of typhoid fever. After lying in bed at the Grundy hotel several weeks, he was taken overland upon a feather bed in a wagon to the home of his mother in LaSalle county, where he remained until able to re-

sume study, and then returned to Granville Academy, Putnam county, to finish his preparation to enter Illinois College at Jacksonville; and in September of that year he matriculated in that college as a sophomore; but, his health failing, he spent only two years in college and then returned to Morris, in the fall of 1845, where he opened a general or country store and was appointed postmaster; and at the spring election for school trustee, 1846, he was elected one of the trustees of township 33, range 7, and was made president of the board.

When Governor Ford issued his proclamation of May 25, 1846, for volunteers for the Mexican war, Mr. Armstrong was the first to respond, and raised a company, which elected him captain; but, owing to our not having a daily mail, the report of its organization, though immediately mailed, did not reach the adjutant general's office at Springfield until after the report of Judge Dickey's company of Ottawa, though organized one day later, had been received and his company accepted, which filled the quota of Illinois volunteers. Hence the Morris company was disbanded, and all the military honor Captain Armstrong acquired was the naked commission as captain of the Grundy county militia, which cost him much time and money in organizing and drilling a lot of stalwart men, chiefly composed of canal hands. That commission, as well as the title of captain, has long been lost and forgotten.

On the 21st of December, 1846, Captain Armstrong was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Borbidge, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, a lady of refinement and education as well as a devout Christian, who ably assisted her husband and Dr. Hand in organizing the first Sabbath-school in Morris; and, being the best Biblical scholar, she took charge of the Bible class. To them were born four sons: Fidelius H., who died in infancy; Charles Dale, an elocutionist and ventriloquist, who was killed at Lawrence, Massachusetts, December 26, 1899; Elwood, who is a prominent physician and railroad surgeon at Greenleaf, Kansas; and William E., shipping clerk for the Plano Harvester Company. The first wife died of consumption September 4, 1862, and on the 23d of August, 1863, the Captain was married to Mrs. Malina J. Eldredge, of Plano, Illinois, who still survives, and has been the mother of three sons: Lewis W., who died in infancy; Frank N., a physician and surgeon of Richmond, Illinois, and Perry A., Jr., who is a dentist of Chicago.

In 1847 Mr. Armstrong was one of the Illinois delegates to the river and harbor convention, where Mr. Lincoln and he were committee-men from Illinois upon permanent organization. He favored "Tom" Corwin, of Ohio, while Mr. Lincoln was for Edward Bates, of Missouri. Mr. Armstrong was the first supervisor of the town of Morris; was elected justice of the peace in 1849; was a clerk in the office of the auditor of public accounts dur-

ing the winter of 1850-51 and drew the charter of the Rock Island, LaSalle & Chicago Railroad, now the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, also of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and the Illinois Central Railroad, and made the selections of the government land which inured to said railroad under the congressional act; and then went upon the survey of the Rock Island, LaSalle & Chicago Railroad as assistant engineer in 1851, and ran its experimental levels from Joliet to Ottawa and from Tiskilwa to Geneseo, and then went to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and ran the level from Galesburg to Pond Creek, now Sheffield; but on discovering that there was not enough money in the treasury to pay one month's salary he resigned and came home, and was appointed swamp-land commissioner of Grundy county, to select and sell the unsold government lands that should fall within the meaning of the swamp-land act of congress of September 28, 1850. By personal surveys and inspection he secured the title to about three thousand acres, which he subsequently sold for several thousand dollars, which went into the county treasury.

At the November election, 1853, he was elected clerk of the county court and re-elected in 1857, and in 1862 he was elected to the constitutional convention from LaSalle, Livingston and Grundy counties without opposition, and to the legislature from Grundy and Will, in 1863, and again in 1872, from DeKalb, Kendall and Grundy counties, without opposition, and served on the judiciary, judicial department and railroad committees in the latter session; and was the author of our present common-law jurisdiction of county courts, and the law of escheats and our jury law, with many amendments to our criminal code, road and bridge and other laws; and was on the Seymour ticket in 1868.

Captain Armstrong was the grand master of the grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the state of Illinois in 1856-57, and grand representative to the sovereign grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the United States for 1858 and 1859.

He was an active supporter of the government in the war of the Rebellion and assisted in the organization of soldiers, making war speeches all over the surrounding country as a war Democrat and was a personal friend of Mr. Lincoln and Senator Douglas, both of whom he has entertained at his home in Morris, and in turn he was entertained by them at their homes in Springfield, Illinois. In the winter of 1851, Mr. Lincoln and he alternating, read the entire works of Sir Walter Scott. In the fall of 1863 he engaged in the purchase of horses for the army and continued at that until the close of the war. He was admitted to the bar in 1863, entering into partnership with Judge Benjamin Olin, now of Joliet, under the firm name of Olin & Armstrong, which was the leading law firm for several

years. Mr. Olin withdrew from the firm in 1870, locating in Joliet. In 1876 Mr. Armstrong was appointed master in chancery of Grundy county, and held that office for twenty-two consecutive years. He was the secretary of the school board nine years and also secretary of the board of trustees of the Illinois Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary for nine years, and president of the board of directors of the Morris Cemetery Association seventeen years, during which time Evergreen cemetery emerged from obscurity to a first-class cemetery. He is the dean of the Morris bar and the oldest Master Mason and Past Master, Royal Arch Mason, and past high priest, Knight Templar and past commander, and was deputy grand commander of the grand commandery of the state of Illinois in 1863 and is the oldest thirty-third degree Mason of this state, in date of membership.

Though he never had any pecuniary interest in a newspaper, he has conducted the political column of several during presidential campaigns and is the author of The Sauks and of Black Hawk War; and has written many poems, which have been published, among which are a Child's Inquiry, What is Heaven, and a Funeral Dirge to General Grant, and the disappointment of Judge Carter's little son Allan over his failure to grasp a ray of light, etc. But his master poem is a Greeting to the Pioneers of Northern Illinois, which has not yet been published. He was always an admirer of nature and an enthusiastic geologist, and has shipped to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington city within the last year over three tons of fossil botany of his own collection, and he has been the historian of Grundy county from its birth up to the present time. For many years he personally knew every citizen in the county, even to his Christian name.

LAWRENCE W. CLAYPOOL.

Almost from the earliest development of Grundy county the name of Claypool has been inseparably interwoven in its history, and its representatives have ever been men of sterling worth and have labored earnestly and effectively for the substantial development and progress of the locality. For many years Lawrence W. Claypool has been identified with the interests of this section of the state and left the impress of his individuality upon the material improvement as well as upon the social and public life of the community. He was born in Brown county, Ohio, June 4, 1819, and was of English lineage.

The earliest record of the family extant indicates that about 1645, Sir James Claypool, of England, married a daughter of Oliver Cromwell. Some years later two brothers of the same family crossed the Atlantic from England

to America, taking up their residence in Virginia. One subsequently left the Old Dominion for Pennsylvania and cast in his lot with the colony that with William Penn laid the foundation of the Keystone state. It was either he or his descendant, James C. Claypool, who was a signing witness to the Penn charter in 1682. His descendants have spelled the name Claypole.

The other brother remained in Virginia, where his son, William Claypool, was born about 1690. He lived to the extraordinary age of one hundred and two years, and had a family of three sons—George, John and James. The last named was born about 1730, and he had three sons whom he reverently named Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was General Washington's commissary for eastern Virginia and was a most loyal advocate of the cause of liberty. His son, Abraham, removed to Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1799, and became prominent in the early history of that state, serving for several years in the senate. He had six sons and five daughters, the second son being Jacob Claypool, who was born in Virginia in 1788 and became a resident of Brown county, Ohio. He manifested a spirit of patriotism by his service in the war of 1812 and was ever recognized as a man of sterling character and worth. He married Nancy Ballard, a lady of Quaker parentage from North Carolina, and they had two sons—Perry A. and Lawrence W. The former was born in Belmont county, Ohio, June 5, 1815, and died in Grundy county, Illinois, October 15, 1846. In 1834 Jacob Claypool removed with his family to the western frontier, taking up his abode in what is now Wauponsee township, Grundy county, Illinois. He secured for himself and his sons a large tract of land and became a wealthy citizen and a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of the county. His ability led to his selection for a number of important offices and he served as the first county commissioner, was also the probate judge of the county, and held other positions of trust and responsibility. He died in 1876, at the age of eighty-eight years.

Lawrence W. Claypool, his son, was a youth of fifteen years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Grundy county. He attended the schools for only about eleven months, pursuing his studies in a little log school-house in Ohio, but he was a man of strong mentality, and through observation and reading became well informed. In 1841, when not yet twenty-two years of age, he was elected the recorder of deeds for Grundy county and served until 1847. In the meantime he became the first postmaster of the town of Morris, holding the position from 1842 till 1845. In 1848 he received the appointment of assistant agent of the canal lands and served in that capacity until all the land was sold, retiring from the position in 1860. He was also the town supervisor and a member of the school board for many years, and at all times discharged his duties with a prompt-

ness and fidelity that won him the commendation of all concerned. Of the Union cause he was a faithful and loyal adherent. During the Civil war he was a very active and prominent worker in raising volunteers and providing sanitary supplies. In his early life he was afflicted with white-swelling in his right leg, rendering him physically incapacitated for active military service in the field during the great conflict. With the changed conditions and feeling of the time he changed his political adherency, being first a Whig, then an Abolitionist, afterward a member of the Free-soil party and on the organization of the Republican party he became one of its stanch advocates.

On the 15th of November, 1849, Mr. Claypool was united in marriage to Miss Caroline B. Palmer, a daughter of John Palmer, of Ottawa, one of the pioneer settlers of LaSalle county, who in June, 1833, traveled across the country from Warren county, New York, to the Prairie state. Mrs. Claypool was born in New York, March 12, 1831, and died in Morris, in February, 1890. Eight children were born of their union, but only one is now living—Henry C. Mr. Claypool was called to his final rest in 1893. He spent his last days in Morris and was a most highly esteemed citizen, respected and honored by all who knew him. Of firm convictions, he was unwavering in his support of whatever he believed to be right, and his integrity was above question. He was faithful in friendship, loyal in citizenship, reliable in business and devoted to his home and family. His record is one well worthy of emulation.

FRANK A. JOHNSON.

Frank A. Johnson, one of the leading merchants of Morris, was born on a farm in Grundy county, February 22, 1872. He is a graduate of the Morris high school and received his business training in Bryant & Stratton's Business college, of Chicago. He then put to the practical test the knowledge he had acquired by accepting a position in the wholesale dry-goods house of J. V. Farwell & Company, of that city, but after a brief time he returned to Morris, where for a year and a half he acted as salesman in the dry-goods store of Henry H. Baum. When that period was ended he spent five months in his father's store, and in September, 1893, returned to Chicago, where for a year and a half he was in the employ of the United States Express Company. In February, 1895, he again returned to Morris to work in his father's store, and in May following was admitted to a partnership in the business under the name of Peter A. Johnson & Sons, dealers in hardware, farm implements and carriages. The father established this store in

1882. It is now under the management of Frank A. Johnson, and his careful supervision, keen discernment and executive force are bringing to it an excellent success. The firm now enjoys the largest trade in its line in the county, and the store is fully equipped with everything found in a first-class establishment.

In 1896 was celebrated the marriage of Frank A. Johnson and Laura A. Williams, and they now have an interesting little son, Ralph. Mr. Johnson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never sought political preferment for himself. Socially he is connected with the Knights of the Globe, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. The hospitality of the best homes of Morris is freely extended them, and they fully merit the high regard in which they are uniformly held.

JOHN E. CLAYPOOL.

A representative of one of the oldest families of Grundy county, John E. Claypool is now engaged in farming in Wauponsee township. He was born in that township, in 1868, on the farm occupied by his father before moving to the old homestead, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Hume) Claypool. His great-grandfather, Jacob Claypool, was a pioneer settler there and removed from Ohio to Illinois in 1834. He secured a grant of land from the government which still remains in the possession of his descendants, and throughout the remainder of his life was connected with the agricultural interests of Grundy county. His son, Perry A. Claypool, was born in Brown county, Ohio, June 5, 1815, and with his parents came to the west. He was a man of great energy, strong determination and much force of character, and in the community where he resided was recognized as a leading and influential citizen. At the age of twenty years he was married in his native county to Miss Mary Halstead, who also was born in the Buckeye state. In 1847 he was instantly killed by the kick of a horse, leaving a wife and four children. At that time he was holding a responsible position as assessor and treasurer of Grundy county, and in the discharge of his duties manifested the promptness and fidelity which were numbered among his chief characteristics.

John Claypool, the father of our subject, was born on the old family homestead in Wauponsee township in 1837, being the third white child born in Grundy county. He was reared on the farm and upon attaining his majority he purchased and located on a tract of land in Wauponsee township, where he made his home till the death of his grandfather, when

he returned to the old family homestead, there remaining throughout the residue of his days. He received his education in the country schools, but was a man of marked intellectuality and through his own efforts gained a broad general knowledge, and in his young days engaged in teaching school. His political support was given to the Republican party and he was an active and loyal advocate of its doctrines. He held a number of township offices and for several years faithfully discharged the duties of township supervisor. His death occurred in 1886, but his widow still survives and is living in Morris.

John E. Claypool is indebted to the common schools of the neighborhood for the educational privileges he received. His training at farm labor was not meager and from an early age he was familiar with the duties and tasks which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He has always engaged in farming and is now living at the old place, occupying the brick dwelling that was erected by Jacob Claypool, the bricks used therein being made from clay obtained upon the farm. This is the oldest brick dwelling in the county, but is still in a state of good preservation. The farm is rich and highly cultivated, the well tilled fields yielding to the owner a golden tribute for the care and labor bestowed upon them.

In 1891 Mr. Claypool was united in marriage to Miss Eva May Harney, a daughter of Daniel Harney, of LaSalle county. To them were born five children—Charlotte E., Daniel E., Jennie B., Pearl M. and Victoria May. In his political views Mr. Claypool is a Republican, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business interests. His methods of farming are progressive and commend themselves to all wide-awake and enterprising agriculturists. He is both widely and favorably known in the county where his entire life has been passed and has a large circle of friends.

SAMUEL E. STOUGH.

Samuel E. Stough, now the judge of the thirteenth circuit and a man well known throughout the state of Illinois, has for more than two decades been an honored citizen of Morris.

Judge Stough is a native of the Buckeye state. He was born in Williams county, Ohio, September 2, 1852, a son of J. S. Stough, a physician. In 1858 Dr. Stough moved with his family to Waterloo, Indiana, and it was there that Samuel E. was reared. His education, begun in the public schools of Waterloo, was carried forward at Springfield, Ohio, and later at Ann Arbor, Michigan. In the University of Michigan he pursued the study of

law, and is a graduate of the law department of that institution with the class of 1877. Immediately after his graduation he came to Illinois and located at Morris, where he began his professional career, a career which has been marked by signal success. He has served three terms as state's attorney, having been elected to the office in 1888, 1892 and 1896, and in 1897 he was honored by election to the office of judge of the thirteenth circuit, receiving these favors at the hands of the Republican party, of which he has always been an ardent supporter. The Judge maintains a fraternal relation with the Knights of Pythias.

He was married in 1892 to Miss Jennie Garrett, and they are the parents of three children.

DR. A. F. HAND.

Dr. A. F. Hand, deceased, the pioneer physician of Morris, Illinois, was born in Shoreham, Vermont, July 11, 1816, and at an early age came west to Illinois. He received his education in the Illinois College, of which institution he was a graduate with the class of 1844. Two years later, in 1847, he came to Morris and here began his professional career, a career which covered a period of forty years and which was one marked by signal success. Dr. Hand was recognized not only as a skillful and successful physician but also as a gentleman in every sense of the word, and he enjoyed the confidence and respect of all who knew him. He died June 15, 1890, at the age of seventy-three years, eleven months and four days.

JULIUS C. ARMSTRONG.

Julius C. Armstrong, D. D., the third son of George W. and Nancy (Green) Armstrong, was born at the old homestead in the eastern part of La-Salle county, Illinois, on the 18th of August, 1840. He worked on the farm in the summers and attended the district school in the winters until his eighteenth year, when he was sent to Morris, Illinois, to a high school, where he studied, with some intervals at home or teaching school, until he was of age.

A year after the breaking out of the great civil war he entered the army as a volunteer in behalf of his country. He left his home in July, 1862, and was mustered into the United States Army in September, and served for three

years in Company D of the Ninety-first Infantry Volunteers. He was absent from his company a part of the fall of that year, on account of sickness, and thereby escaped capture with his regiment by the Confederate General John Morgan. Joining his company at Benton Barracks, Missouri, in December, he was employed as a clerk in the office of the provost marshal of St. Louis until the exchange of his regiment in the summer of 1863. They were then sent to General Grant's command, arriving just after the capture of Vicksburg. They were too late to participate in the siege, but in time to relieve a part of General Sherman's command sent to drive General Johnston out of the state. Guard duty was done here and at Port Hudson, with an occasional pursuit of detachments of the Confederate troops out in quest of forage or to harass our movements.

In September, 1863, a considerable force of United States troops under the command of General Gordon Granger established a camp at Morganza Bend, below Port Hudson on the Mississippi river, to prevent the Confederates from shipping cattle and other supplies across the river from Texas. Several severe skirmishes occurred with portions of General Dick Taylor's army, in some of which Mr. Armstrong's company participated. During this time Mr. Armstrong was the standard-bearer of his regiment.

The capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson and the elimination of the armies of Generals Johnston and Gardner from the Confederate forces, together with the precipitate retreat of General Johnston after the fall of Vicksburg, left General Grant without occupation. Something more important than skirmishes with small foraging parties was needed to crush the rebellion. General Grant's troops were therefore shipped to Carrollton, Louisiana, and sent across the Gulf of Mexico with an army to seize Brazos island and Brownsville, Texas, two points of great value to the Confederates for the export of cotton and the import of arms and ammunition.

As soon as the expedition had accomplished its purpose all but one brigade of the corps was returned to New Orleans for the ill-starred expedition up the Red river. The Ninety-first Regiment, with its brigade, was left behind to garrison Brazos island until the following Christmas, when it also was shipped to New Orleans to increase the army gathered there to move on Mobile, Alabama. The troops in strong force under the command of General E. R. S. Canby left New Orleans in February, 1864, and landed near Fort Morgan, on the east side of Mobile bay, and, marching from that point, invested Spanish Fort and Blakely, two strongly fortified forts, forming a part of the defenses of the city of Mobile. Spanish Fort was evacuated after a close siege of twelve days, the Confederates leaving in such haste that a large amount of ammunition, many small arms and all their cannon fell into our hands, together with some three hundred prisoners. Blakely

was then stormed and captured, with considerable loss of life, the prisoners numbering several thonsand. The loss of the two forts and the men and arms with which they were garrisoned left the Confederates no recourse but to abandon the city.

The army of General Canby was then shipped across the bay and entered the city without opposition, on the 8th of April, 1865. Without stopping the army was sent northward in pursuit of the retreating Confederates, overtaking their rear guard three or four miles from the city at a small railroad station. Two of Mr. Armstrong's comrades fell by his side as his company charged at a run across a burning bridge. This proved to be the last blood shed by any of his company before the collapse of the rebellion. After a few days the troops marched northward to the Tombigbee river and constructed a fort and placed cannon in position to prevent the escape of General Taylor's gunboats. An expedition was then planned and started to strike the Confederates in the rear, at Selma, Alabama. After a few miles of marching the troops were turned back with a flag of truce, sent with the information that the greatest rebellion of all history had suddenly become a thing of the past. The troops were then returned to Mobile by water, using for their transportation General Taylor's captured gunboats. In conspicuous letters on captured ambulances and army wagons on the boats were the words, "General Dick Taylor never surrenders." The professor in charge of the steam calliope on one of these boats played at the request of his captors "Dixie," "Way Down South in the Land of Cotton," and other southern airs, and then with the remark, "I haven't played them for so long a time I am afraid I have forgotten how," "Yankee Doodle," "Star Spangled Banner" and "Hail Columbia."

The troops were sent to their respective states and mustered out of service as rapidly as possible, Mr. Armstrong arriving at his home in July, 1865. He was appointed sergeant in September, when mustered into the service, and promoted to be first sergeant in September, 1864, and brevetted second lieutenant at the close of the war. This office would have been conferred nearly a year earlier had not the depletion of his company by disease and death limited the number of commissioned officers to two.

After his discharge Mr. Armstrong returned to his home and was married to Hattie Vanelia, the oldest daughter of Mr. Henry B. Goodrich, a farmer living in Grundy county, Illinois, five miles south of Morris, the county seat of that county. The following year he rented the farm of his father-in-law and later he purchased a part of the farm, building a house and barn and buying stock and tools with the expectation of devoting himself to farming.

He was elected a deacon of the Congregational church in the neighbor-

hood and superintendent of its Sunday-school, delivered addresses in that part of the county at various Sunday-school gatherings, and began thereby, as it proved, his life work as a minister of the gospel. He sold his farm in 1871, returning to the plan formed and given up before the war. He took his family in September of that year to Chicago and entered upon a course of theological study in the Chicago Theological Seminary and completed his course in the spring of 1874. While pursuing his studies he preached for a time at Walnut, in Bureau county, Illinois, and also at East Waupansie, this state, and in February, 1873, began preaching at Lyonsville, fifteen miles west of Chicago; and on concluding his studies at the seminary was installed as pastor of that church. During the nearly ten years that he preached for this church he conducted a Sunday afternoon service at Western Springs for over five years, and later returned to this field and organized a Congregational church of fifty members as the result, in part, of his previous labors there. He preached also at Lyons, a town five miles east of Lyonsville, and organized a church there of twenty-five members. Later he began an afternoon service at La Grange and organized a church there of thirty-five members. Grounds were purchased and a building erected for the last named church, at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars.

In the spring of 1882 a unanimous call came from the Congregational churches of Chicago to accept the position of "Superintendent of Mission Work" in the city of Chicago. While his church refused to accept his resignation they agreed to spare him for the new work provided a council of the churches should decide that such a step was best. He began his labors in the new field in August, 1882, and in the following December was made the superintendent of the Chicago City Missionary Society on its organization, and he has continued to superintend its work to the present time, nearly eighteen years.

About four hundred thousand dollars have been gathered and expended in organizing and supporting the missions and churches under the society's care. Thirty to forty missionaries and visitors are employed and missions are cared for all over the city. When the work was begun there were seventeen Congregational churches in the area now covered by the city, and there are now seventy-seven Congregational churches in the city, all but twenty-seven of which were formed by the aid of this organization. Seven thousand five hundred church members have been gathered into these new churches and over fifteen thousand children cared for in their Sunday-schools. Thirty young ministers have been raised up in these churches for the Christian ministry. The value of the property held by these churches exceeds four hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. Armstrong was the registrar of the Chicago Association of Congre-

gational Churches from April, 1880, to April, 1886. He was one of the incorporators of the Ministerial Relief Society, an organization formed to aid indigent and aged ministers and their families within the state of Illinois. For some years he was its secretary and treasurer, and he is still on its board of direction. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary for twelve years, and has been the secretary of the executive committee of the board for the same length of time. He received the honorary degree of Bachelor of Divinity from the seminary at his graduation, and the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Wheaton college in 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have three children. Arthur Henry, the oldest, graduated at Beloit College, and, choosing his father's profession, graduated also at the Theological Seminary. He organized the Waveland Avenue Congregational Church of Chicago six years ago, and is still its pastor. Grounds have been purchased and a building erected under his direction, and a membership of over two hundred has been gathered under his pastorate. He was married to Miss Kate Schultz in 1895. Anna, the second child, has made a name for herself as an artist in water colors, and as a decorator of china. She draws her own designs from nature. She instructs teachers and supplies nature studies by correspondence throughout the country. She was married in 1898 to Dr. T. S. Green, a practicing physician and surgeon on the south side of the city. Mrs. Green continues her chosen profession, however, and is an enthusiastic artist. Julius Roy, the youngest child, is in the Armour Institute of Technology, fitting himself to be an electrical engineer.

PETER A. JOHNSON.

Starting out in life for himself when only twelve years of age, Peter A. Johnson steadily worked his way upward, reaching a prominent position in commercial circles in Morris. Difficulties were in his way, but he overcame them by determined purpose, resolute will and untiring energy, and became one of the substantial citizens of Grundy county. In all his transactions he has always followed the most honorable methods, and business integrity is synonymous with his name.

Mr. Johnson is one of the worthy citizens that Sweden has furnished to the new world, his birth having occurred in that kingdom on the 24th of March, 1843. His parents were John and Hannah Johnson, both natives of Sweden, and in the spring of 1853 they started for the United States, but on the voyage the father and two of the sons died of cholera. The mother

and the remaining children—John G., William C., Daniel O., Louise, Anna and Peter A.—all reached New York in safety and came direct to Grundy county, Illinois, where the boys were bound out. Peter A. Johnson entered the service of a farmer by the name of Gorham, but soon afterward, at the age of twelve years, he ran away and started out upon an independent career. From that time on he depended solely upon his own exertions, and whatever success he has achieved in life may be attributed to his well directed efforts. In his youth he worked as a farm hand in Grundy county, and at the age of eighteen years, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he responded to the country's call for troops to aid in crushing out the rebellion, joining Company D, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, under Captain W. P. Pierce. He served for three years and three months, participating in numerous hotly contested engagements, including the battles of Pea Ridge, Shiloh, Perryville, Stone River, and Chickamauga. In the last named he sustained a wound in the ankle which resulted in a permanent injury. His wound was partially dressed on the battle-field and there he remained uncared for until the seventh day, when he was sent to the hospital, and later to a hospital at Quincy, Illinois, and was never again able to engage in active service on the field. Previous to this time he was always found at his post of duty, faithfully defending the old flag and the cause it represented.

While in Quincy Mr. Johnson was married, on the 7th of May, 1864, to Miss Elizabeth Claypool, daughter of Perry A. Claypool. She was born in Grundy county, August 18, 1845. After his marriage Mr. Johnson began farming in Wauponsee township, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1882. He was very diligent, practical in his methods and progressive in all departments of farm work, and the well tilled fields yielded to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestowed upon them. On retiring from his farming he took up his residence in Morris, where he engaged in the agricultural implement and carriage business. From the beginning he prospered in the new undertaking and enlarged his stock to meet the constantly growing demands of his trade. Later on he admitted his sons to a partnership in the business, under the firm style of Peter A. Johnson & Sons, and this house now enjoys a leading trade in its line in Morris. The business is now under the control of his son, Frank A. Johnson, and the liberal patronage the firm receives is well merited.

Unto Peter and Elizabeth Johnson have been born four children, namely: Perry A., Frederick S., Frank A. and Nellie M. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and gives his political support to the Republican party. As a citizen he has ever been progressive and public-spirited, and in days of peace manifesting the same loyalty to the

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flag that marked his military service on the battle-fields of the south. His success in business matters has been very creditable and he enjoys the respect and confidence of all who know him.

JOHN WINTERBOTTOM.

Those sturdy English traits which constitute an element of strength and excellence in our American character are exemplified in the subject of this sketch, who until his recent retirement from active farming and removal to the city of Morris was a farmer on section 17, Goose Lake township, Grundy county.

John Winterbottom was born in Lancashire, England, June 30, 1842, a son of William and Martha (Booth) Winterbottom and a grandson of James Winterbottom, who fought at the battle of Waterloo. William Winterbottom, also a native of Lancashire, England, was born in 1821. He came to the United States many years ago and settled near Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, where he was a prominent and successful farmer until his death, which occurred in Kansas in 1874. His wife, also born in Lancashire, England, in 1821, died in England, at the age of seventy-five years. Three of their children are living: John, the first born, James and William. Three daughters, named Elizabeth, Eliza and Ellen, died in England when very young. James and William remained in England. James, who is the superintendent of a large system of chemical works in London, is married and has children. William, who is an artist and a member of the Royal Artists' Society and has attained eminence in his profession, lives with his wife and children in London.

John Winterbottom obtained his education at the place of his birth in Lancashire, England, and came to America at the age of seventeen, arriving at Morris, Illinois, April 12, 1859. For a few years he was employed on the farm of his uncle, Joseph Wild, in Nettle Creek township. In 1870 he removed to the city of Morris, where he opened a machine and gunsmith's shop on Liberty street, which he conducted successfully for nearly a quarter of a century. Mr. Winterbottom then removed to his farm of five hundred and sixty acres in section 17, Goose Lake township, and again took up farming. A man of influence and of sound judgment he gained the confidence of his fellow townsmen to such a degree that he was elected a justice of the peace and the president of the school board of his township and a trustee of Oak Ridge cemetery.

When the country of his adoption needed men who would risk their

lives in its defense at the time of our civil war, Mr. Winterbottom responded to the call promptly and patriotically. He enlisted in Company I, Sixty-ninth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and when the term of his service expired re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battles and campaigns in which those organizations took part and proved himself in every way a brave and true soldier, devoted to the flag under which he had found citizenship and prosperity.

Though he has been for most of his life a busy man, Mr. Winterbottom has found time to keep himself in touch with the progress of the world, especially in the department of mechanical science; and he has been a constant reader of the best mechanical journals. He is also a student of natural history and is an amateur astronomer of no mean attainments.

Mr. Winterbottom married Mary Williams, December 20, 1876. Miss Williams was a daughter of Jacob and Ann Williams, of Felix township, Grundy county, both natives of Wales. Jacob Williams was born August 23, 1820, and died at Morris, this county. His wife was born August 20, 1819, and died in Grundy county, April 21, 1873. They had seven children, only one of whom is living. Of these, Henry was born in Wales and died in infancy; Mary, who married Mr. Winterbottom, died at their farm in Goose Lake township, July 26, 1898, and is buried at St. George's cemetery, at Morris, where she was a member and a liberal supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a constant attendant at its services; George, who was born and died in Grundy county, married Miss Adelia White, of Felix township, and they had one child, Anna; Emma, born in Grundy county, is the wife of Edward Robinson, a retired farmer of Kansas City, Missouri; Maggie was born in Grundy county and died there, aged twenty-one; and John, a native of Grundy county, died there aged about twenty. All of the family who are deceased except Mrs. Winterbottom lie buried in Oak Ridge cemetery, Felix township, Grundy county.

Five children, all of whom are living, were born to John and Mary (Williams) Winterbottom. They are here mentioned in the order of their birth: William R., born October 30, 1877, lives on and manages his father's farm in Goose Lake township, Grundy county; Russell W., born August 31, 1880, is an engineer, but is now farming on his father's farm; Martha Ann, born September 22, 1883, is a member of her father's household, as are also Emma L., born August 23, 1886, and Maggie J., born July 3, 1889.

Mr. Winterbottom is a self-made man, the stepping-stones to whose success have been honesty, industry, thrift and perseverance. He early realized the value of a good reputation for moral and commercial integrity, and as his instincts were all good he easily won such a reputation and has

retained it through all the vicissitudes of life, as a citizen, as a soldier and as a public official. His straightforward career has entitled him richly to the full measure of good fortune, which has crowned his endeavors, and he is passing his closing years honored and respected by all who know him.

GEORGE W. ZINNGREBE.

The story of the struggles and triumphs of a self-made man is always an interesting one, and it is instructive as well. In a broad sense it has been told many times, but the circumstances of life are so various that it can never be told twice alike, and it always possesses the element of novelty in some of its details. Among the self-made men in Grundy county there are few more highly regarded than the man whose name appears above; there is none whose honest and triumphant fight for success is more worthy of emulation.

George W. Zinngrebe, one of the most respected citizens and substantial farmers of Good Farm township, Grundy county, Illinois, was born at Germerate, Hesse-Cassel, Germany, June 17, 1833. His father, George Zinngrebe, was an honest, industrious, well-to-do farmer, descended from old German stock, who married Mary Zinngrebe (not of a family related to his), and was killed by an accident in August, 1836, when his son George W. was little more than three years old. Two of his children died in infancy, Henry died at the age of nineteen and Elizabeth at the age of eleven. None survived except George W., the subject of this sketch, who was reared by his mother and went to school from the time he was six years old until he was fourteen, part of his time having been devoted to Bible reading. He began to work out at farm labor at sixteen years of age. His mother had married Claus Zinngrebe when George W. was six years old, but there were no children by this marriage. The boy had worked hard, receiving at most, however, only eight dollars per year; but he saved his wages and upon the death of his mother, at the age of fifty-three years, he received a little money from her property,—about enough to pay his passage to America; and he sailed from Bremen Haven for Quebec, in the ship Swallow, May 10, 1852, when he was about nineteen years old. The ship was forty-two days on the water, and the voyage was as tedious as it was long. From Quebec he came west by rail to Chicago, where he arrived July 18, 1852. He had two companions, George Kistner and Claus Baker, who had been his neighbor boys in Prussia, and at Chicago they found German friends. George W. left Chicago within a week after his arrival and went twelve miles west of that city and worked at farm labor nine months. He was later employed in Chicago one season in a brick-yard, and then went

to Kankakee county, Illinois, and worked two years as a farm laborer, and then in Grundy county with another man until he engaged in farming in Will county, where he was thus employed for two years.

March 23, 1856, at Chicago, Mr. Zinngrebe married Henne Alsassar, born at Hirrlingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, December 15, 1834, a daughter of John and Emrencer (Beider) Alsassar. Her parents were of old German families and her father was a blacksmith. He came with his family to America about 1855, located in Ohio and became a prosperous farmer there, owning one hundred acres of land and a blacksmith shop near his home. He was a Catholic in religious affiliation, and died after having lived an industrious and profitable life. His children were named Mary, Lizzie, Henne, Susannah, Mary 2d and Frederica.

After his marriage George W. Zinngrebe settled in Will county, Illinois, on a rented farm near the town of Florence, and lived there two years. He then went to Livingston county, Illinois, and rented land three years in Nevada township. From there he came to his present farm, which he rented two years. He was then able to buy forty acres of the place, then wild land, and shortly afterward he bought sixty acres more, the improvements on which included a small house. He gradually improved the farm by his hard work and industry, and added to his holdings until he owns two hundred and eighty acres, a large and valuable farm, on which he has built substantial and attractive buildings, and is one of the most prosperous farmers in the county.

The children of George W. and Henne (Alsassar) Zinngrebe are John, Theodore, Emma, Susannah, Lizzie and Mary. Mrs. Zinngrebe, who was a member of the Evangelical church, died August 14, 1882, aged about forty-seven years. She was an industrious woman, a good housekeeper and possessed many virtues which made her a model wife, mother and neighbor. Mr. Zinngrebe also is a member of the Evangelical church and has been one of its trustees for many years, and was long one of its class-leaders. He helped to build its house of worship and has always assisted liberally toward its support. In politics he is a stanch Republican, but is not an office-seeker or active political worker.

In 1877 Mr. Zinngrebe met with a painful and serious accident while threshing. His right foot was caught in the tumbling-rod of the thresher-power, and his leg was broken in two places, and consequently he was laid up for four months and permanently crippled. But he has not let this affliction make him unhappy. He has always been a hard-working, prudent and thrifty man, a man of honesty and high character, and there is little in his life to cause him regret. He is entirely a self-made man, having had but thirty-five cents when he arrived in Chicago. He owes his elevation

entirely to his own efforts. He has always been a firm believer in the efficacy of hard and persistent work and has demonstrated its value in his own successful life and its material achievements.

SAMUEL SUFFERN.

In its pioneer period Illinois was fortunate in having among its incoming citizens many men of means and business ability and experience, who put themselves at the head of various movements and enterprises, and were largely instrumental in hastening the work of settlement, improvement and development. Grundy county had some such citizens in the '40s and '50s, and none of them was more prominent or more useful in his sphere than the well remembered gentleman whose name is above.

Samuel Suffern was a native of Ireland and came to this country when he was very young and settled in New York, near Syracuse, and for some years was engaged successfully in mercantile business and contracting. In 1849 he went to California, where he engaged in mining and farming for a period of five years, and in the spring of 1855 he came to Illinois and settled in Felix township, where he remained until his death, which occurred at his home on section 35, October 19, 1893. He devoted himself largely to farming and stock-raising, and by his industry and careful attention to business soon acquired a large property. He laid out the present town of Suffern in Felix township, and erected many of its residences and business buildings.

Mr. Suffern was married at Morris, Illinois, to Ellen Smead, a daughter of George Smead, of that place, and they had five children, four of whom are living, who were named in the order of their birth Mary, Mattie, Isabelle, William G. and Annie E. Mary was born in Grundy county, and is the wife of John Trotter, a prominent merchant of Felix township, to whom she has borne five children. Mattie was born in Grundy county, and died in Felix township about 1882. She was the wife of John Trotter, the husband now of her sister Mary, and left no children. Isabelle and Annie E. live in Chicago, where they have established a home with their mother at its head.

William G. Suffern, only son of Samuel and Ellen (Smead) Suffern, was born in Felix township, Grundy county, Illinois, December 8, 1864, and has lived much of his life on the family homestead. He attended the public schools of Felix township and took a commercial course in a Chicago business college. For some years he was a hardware merchant at La Grange and Coal City, Illinois. At Coal City he held the office of village clerk. He was married December 25, 1890, to Mary C. Penn, daughter of John and Elizabeth Penn, of Coal City, Illinois, and they have four children: Ellen,

born at Coal City, Illinois, September 18, 1892; Ethel, born at Coal City, Illinois, June 2, 1894; Winnifred, born in Felix township, Grundy county, March 22, 1896; and Samuel, born in Felix township, January 16, 1898. Mr. Suffern is one of the most enterprising young men of his township and county. Politically he is a Democrat, and he takes an intelligent and patriotic interest in all questions of public importance.

Samuel Suffern was a man of much force of character and of a progressive spirit, which not only made him a very successful pioneer but developed him to meet all emergencies and to be thoroughly master of the situation as time brought changed conditions, more important interests and new and unlooked-for responsibilities. He came to help settle the country, and he did his part in the work of primitive improvement and then built a town, not a large one certainly, but important for the time and place, which bears his name and will stand as a lasting and ever-growing monument to his enterprise and public spirit. He helped to make history, and history will preserve to coming generations the record of his achievements.

LEANDER A. PEACOCK.

Born on the 17th of June, 1851, in Grundy county, educated in the public schools of Morris, and a life-long resident of this county, Leander A. Peacock is justly entitled to a place among her pioneers and representative citizens, and we take pleasure in presenting to his numerous friends and acquaintances the following sketch of himself and family:

The father of our subject, Alexander R. Peacock, a native of England, came to America when young, and, after passing some years in Canada, occupied in agriculture, he removed to Grundy county, Illinois, in 1837, the entire journey being made by teams. Here he continued to till the soil, as formerly, and had improved a good homestead when death cut short his labors, January 15, 1855. His wife, whom he had married in Canada, was Mary Stuart in her girlhood, a daughter of David and Margary (Fife) Stuart. She survived him many years, her death taking place at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Yoeman, of Huntley, Iowa, on the 13th of April, 1899.

Leander A. Peacock is one of eleven children, the others being named as follows: William, born in Canada in 1836, was a farmer of Iroquois county, Illinois, until his death, in 1890, when he left a widow, formerly Mary Yoeman, a native of New York, and two children,—Philip and Cora; Margary, born December 6, 1843, married John M. Yoeman, a dealer in real estate in Huntley, Iowa, and their children are named respectively Elmer, Birtren, James, Levern and George (deceased); David, born March 18, 1842,

became a farmer in Grundy county, served three years in the war of the rebellion in the Ninety-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, returned home in July, 1865, in poor health, and died in 1869, unmarried; Edward, born in 1845, in this county, and now a farmer of Vesta, Nebraska, married Mary Truelock, of Knox county, Illinois, and in 1877 she died, leaving two children,—Frank and Mary; Margaret, born in this county, July 4, 1847, became the wife of Thomas J. Truelock, now a retired farmer of Primghar, Iowa; Andrew, a native of this county, born June 17, 1851, and twin brother of our subject, married Mary, daughter of Charles Noble, a farmer, and the only child of this worthy couple, Nellie, died at Morris, July 5, 1890; James, born December 27, 1852, is unmarried, and is engaged in farming at St. Francis, Kansas; Mary R., born December 26, 1854, died September 15, 1889, in Nettle Creek township, the wife of Isaac Hoge, a prosperous farmer of that locality (see his sketch), and the mother of six children; John, born in this county, August 7, 1838, died in infancy, and Elizabeth, born January 25, 1850, also died in infancy.

When he attained mature years, Leander A. Peacock concluded to follow his father's calling, in which he had been trained judiciously from boyhood,—that of farming,—and he has certainly met with success in his chosen occupation. His home for several years has been on section 5, town 33, range 7, Erianna township, where he settled soon after his marriage. Here he owns one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land, constituting one of the most valuable farms in the township. He has held various local offices, such as that of commissioner of highways and supervisor, and at present is serving his townsmen as treasurer, school director and justice of the peace. His ability and broad knowledge of men and affairs render him a very suitable person on whom to call when matters of moment are at stake, and he has ever manifested great devotion to the interests of the public.

On the 1st of November, 1876, Mr. Peacock married Emma, daughter of George Towsley, a prosperous farmer of Canada. She has one brother and one sister. The brother, George E., is a successful farmer of Nettle Creek township. His wife was Mary Hoge, a daughter of Hendley and a niece of James B. Hoge, of Saratoga township. Mr. and Mrs. Towsley had five children, of whom Lena, George and Gertrude are living. The sister of Mrs. Peacock is Mrs. Sarah Briggs.

Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Peacock, and the family circle is still unbroken by death. Iva, born August 11, 1877, and unmarried, resides in Nettle Creek township, where her nativity occurred; Alfred, born September 25, 1878, and unmarried, is a successful farmer. The younger children are all at home, and those of the number who can be of assistance

on the farm or in the household aid their parents and attend school. They are named as follows: Ada, born January 7, 1880; Lila, August 18, 1881; Adelbert, March 23, 1883; Chester, October 24, 1885; Irvin, September 26, 1887; Ray, April 3, 1889; Charles, September 28, 1891; Clifford, February 2, 1893; and Gladys, September 23, 1894. The four younger children were born in Erianna township, while the others are natives of Nettle Creek township.

JOHN W. TELFER.

John W. Telfer, a prominent citizen of Saratoga township, Grundy county, is a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, his birth having occurred May 27, 1843. His parents, James and Margaret (Wilson) Telfer, also of Scotland, emigrated to the United States. The father, in company with a brother, Alexander, put down the first shaft and mined the first coal ever taken out of Grundy county, it being shipped by canal to Chicago. The shaft referred to was on the old Peacock farm in Morris township. This was the commencement of an industry which has resulted in great wealth to the people of this section of the state, and employment has been afforded quite an army of workmen. James Telfer, on coming to this country, settled in California, and afterward located in Saratoga township, Grundy county. He was highly respected by all who knew him, and died in Saratoga township; but his widow is still living, and though in her eightieth year enjoys excellent health, and reads and sews without the aid of glasses. She was the youngest of twenty children, and, with the exception of one brother, Alexander, of Scotland, now eighty-four years of age, is the only survivor of their family. At present she is making her home with the subject of this sketch. Her only daughter, Agnes, who died in this township about twelve years ago, was the wife of William Gray. Their only child, Margaret, became the wife of Robert Blair, of Saratoga township, and three children bless their union, namely: Agnes, George and Euphemia.

The early education of John W. Telfer was acquired in his native town, and at the close of the civil war in the United States he, in company with his parents, concluded to come to America. Since arriving here he has been actively interested in mining operations, and at the same time has successfully carried on a farm, his present home being located upon section 34, Saratoga township. Recently he has sunk a new coal shaft not far from the old one and now is developing the mine, which promises to be one of the best in this locality. He has expressly avoided politics, in the sense of office-

seeking, and only because he is specially interested in the cause of education did he consent to act as a school director for two terms, or six years.

On the 14th of December, 1866, John W. Telfer was united in marriage to Jane, daughter of Thomas and Katherine MacAlpin, both natives of Scotland. She had three brothers and three sisters, namely: Frederick, a stationary engineer of Chicago; William, after serving in the British army for twenty-one years, died in England, leaving one son; Alexander, who was a soldier in the English service for seven years, and came to the United States in 1866, was killed on the railroad in Grundy county; Margaret, who married James Ronaldson, of Scotland, died in Edinburgh in 1890, and left five sons and three daughters to mourn her loss; Jessie is the wife of James Brown, a plumber in Chicago, and of their eight children six are now living; and Maggie married John Duncan, a native of Scotland. He died in Morris, Illinois, and she, with their five sons and two daughters, survive.

To the marriage of our subject and wife eleven children were born, and not one of the family circle has been called away by death. Katherine, born in 1867, is the wife of Frederick Flanders, a brick manufacturer in Conover, Vilas county, Wisconsin, and their two children are John and Lillian. James, born in 1869, is a molder by trade, employed in the Coleman Hardware Company's shops at Morris, Illinois. He chose for his wife Alice, the daughter of Henry Ohlendorf, of Morris, and they have two children, John and Louisa. Margaret, born in 1871, married John Larsness, a farmer of Felix township, Grundy county, and their only child is named Genie. McKenzie, born in 1873, is an engineer at Conover, Wisconsin; Frederick, born in 1875, also lives in Morris. William, born May 1, 1877, resides at home and assists his father in mining. Gideon, born August 9, 1879, Ernest, October 23, 1881, Agnes, March 23, 1883, Thomas, April 19, 1885, and Harrison, November 4, 1887, are still living with their parents, and are being given good educational advantages and training in citizenship.

HALVER OSMONSEN.

The career of Halver Osmonsen is well worthy of emulation by the generation now entering upon the cares and responsibilities of life. Arriving in this country a stranger, in 1849, the year of the great gold excitement, he might have followed in the footsteps of that horde of adventurers who, wisely or unwisely, were wending their perilous way toward the setting sun, determined to reap a golden harvest within a year or two, but, coming of

the steady, hard-working race of Norsemen, he preferred the old, well-tried paths of industry, knowing that it is ever the safest and surest way to wealth, —"by the sweat of the brow," the tilling of the soil. The result of his wisdom and perseverance will be referred to below, where a sketch of his life appears:

Born in Norway, May 22, 1825, a son of honest, God-fearing farmers, Halver Osmonsen passed his youth in the various activities common to his country, a limited education being afforded him in the schools of his locality. In 1847 his parents, Halver and Mary Osmonsen, emigrated to America, and two years later the young man decided to try his fortunes in the New World also, and landed in New York city July 3, 1849. The father settled in LaSalle county, where he died during the first year of the great civil war. He was survived by his wife, who died at the home of her son, our subject, at the ripe age of four-score years. Of their eight children five died in Norway, namely: Osmon, Sorn, Julia, Madala and Christian. Three are living, namely: Christian, the second, of Morris, Illinois, now in his sixty-fifth year; Sorn, a retired farmer of Newark, Illinois; and Halver.

During the first years of his residence in Illinois our subject dwelt in Morris and in the neighborhood of Lisbon, and although he had little or no means at first, he soon saved a good sum, by economy and wise management. After farming near Lisbon for eight years, he bought a place of sixty acres, which he improved and then sold at a fair profit. Coming to Grundy county, he purchased the farm which he still carries on, his home being on section 9, Saratoga township. At various times he has invested in land, and now owns over two sections, renting five farms to responsible tenants. He takes commendable pride in keeping his dwellings in good repair, and everything about his homestead is neat and attractive in appearance. In addition to the farm lands which he owns, over one thousand acres, he also owns a handsome residence in the town of Morris; and he is also the proprietor of two substantial houses in Chicago, leasing them at good rates.

Mr. Osmonsen's success, as shown by the facts stated above, needs no special commentary, as it speaks for itself, but at the same time it may be pointed out to the younger members of the community that they may prosper in the same degree in their life work, if they only put their shoulder to the wheel, as he has done. Nor, in the multiplicity of his private interests, has he neglected his public duties. He served for six years as highway commissioner, and during his term of office many important improvements were made, such as the erecting of several new bridges. He espouses the Republican cause, and is faithful to all of his obligations as a citizen. As might be expected, he is an earnest church worker, and the Lutheran chapel, which stands on the southeastern corner of his farm, was erected upon

ganized, nearly a quarter of a [illegible]. Since the congregation was organized, he has been one of the deacons, and [illegible] contributing generously toward the church building he has liberally given of his means toward [illegible].

[illegible] county, Mr. Osmonsen married Engeri Olson, a native of Norway, [illegible] 1822. They became the parents of two sons,—Oliver H. and [illegible]. For forty-four years they pursued life's highway together. Mrs. [illegible] was summoned to her reward [illegible] ember, 1894, our subject wedded Ingeri Fosse, a daughter of Sore[illegible]nie Fosse, who rent one of Mr. Osmonsen's farms in Saratoga t[illegible]. The older son of our subject, already mentioned,—Oliver H.,—[illegible] in Kendall county, January 14, 1850, and on the 1st of March, 1[illegible]ed Susan A. Johnson, who was born June 10, 1852, a daughter of [illegible]nd Annie Johnson. Ole, the younger son of Mr. Osmonsen, was b[illegible]. He married Miss Ida, daughter of Samuel Craig, a farmer of Nettle[illegible]. They reside in Morris, Illinois.

[illegible] I. GOOLD.

Indelibly engraved on the [illegible] of the history of Grundy county is the name of Charles H. Goold, who for [illegible]ty-five years was a leading representative of the business interests of [illegible]. His life was a pure, honorable and useful life, actuated by unselfish motives and guided by sound principles, and at his death he left not only a handsome [illegible]te also an untarnished name. His career was in many respects one [illegible]mulation, and no record of the county would be complete without [illegible]t of his life.

Charles H. Goold was born in [illegible], Monroe county, New York, [illegible]. His father, [illegible]l, Sr., removed to Ontario county, New York, and during the [illegible] of our subject the mother died. At a very tender age he was [illegible]wn resources for support. In the common schools he [illegible]tion, and completed an academic education, to which [illegible] through business experience, close observation and [illegible]g in later years. During [illegible]uth he went to Genesee county, [illegible] where he accepted a clerk[illegible] till 1841. He then [illegible]k of goods, which he sol[illegible]gan, Illinois, Missouri.

[illegible]ade his first visit to M[illegible]. engaged in the con[illegible]d Michi-

gan canal. Returning to New York, Mr. Goold was united in marriage in Batavia of that state, late in 1846, to Miss Laura Adelia Baker, who was born in Connecticut but was reared in New York—a lady of education and culture. In the following year, accompanied by his bride, he again came to Morris, not with the express purpose of making this city his home, however. He engaged in business here and as his operations proved successful and his relations became extended he finally decided to remain, and in 1870 erected a palatial brick residence, which stands as a monument to his enterprise and progressive spirit. He was a pioneer grain dealer and dry-goods merchant of Morris, and in connection with John P. Chapin he erected, 1849, the first warehouse and store of any respectable size in Morris.

Disposing of his mercantile interests in 1851, Mr. Goold turned his attention to the real-estate business and insurance. He issued the first policy in Morris and for many years did a most extensive business in both departments of the work. Many transfers of real estate were made by him, involving vast sums of money, and through his activity in this regard the substantial improvement and permanent development of the county was greatly augmented. His judgment was rarely, if ever, at fault, and his extraordinary discernment and unswerving integrity in all business transactions secured for him the public confidence and a very large patronage. Thus he grew wealthy, amassing a handsome fortune, and though he started out in life without capital he died a rich man. Through the legitimate channels of business he met with success, energy and business discernment being the salient features of his prosperity. In 1864 he was one of the organizers of the Grundy County National Bank, and from that time was continually one of the directors. In 1871 he was made its president, filling that position until his death, which occurred June 22, 1892. To his ability and management the success of the institution was attributable, and as the result of his efforts it took rank among the most substantial financial concerns in this part of the state.

In manner Charles H. Goold was quiet and reserved and perhaps was not fully understood by many. His friends, however, recognizing his goodness of heart, his fidelity to principle and his manly conduct, had for him the highest admiration and respect. He had great sympathy for his fellow men and was liberal to those in need of aid, yet lived in strict obedience to the scriptural mandate, "When thou doest alms let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth." He was a thirty-second degree Mason, belonging to the Chicago Consistory. For many years he and his estimable wife regularly attended the services of the Congregational church. When his life's labors were ended his remains were laid to rest in Evergreen cemetery at Morris, in a beautiful mausoleum erected by his widow in loving

remembrance of one whose life was so long closely interwoven with her own and whom to know was to esteem and honor.

JEREMIAH COLLINS.

Among the early settlers of Grundy county few are better known and none are more generally beloved and honored than is Jeremiah Collins. Coming here when the country was almost entirely wild, he has witnessed its marvelous development and has performed his full share toward its prosperity. By long continued industry and careful business management he accumulated a comfortable fortune, and still, though now nearing fourscore years in age, attends to his farm work and supervises all of his financial affairs.

The Collins family are of the sturdy old New England stock, and our subject's father, Joshua Collins, was born September 4, 1779, in Rhode Island. In 1834 he decided to try his fortunes in what was then the far west, —Illinois,—and here he founded a permanent home, bearing the privations of a frontier life with the fortitude of his Pilgrim forefathers. He was nobly aided in his struggles to gain a foothold in the new country by his devoted wife, Margaret Rowe, whom he had married November 12, 1808. She was a native of Rhinebeck, New York, born October 27, 1790, and her death occurred September 3, 1839. Joshua Collins followed her to the better land within two years, his death taking place August 27, 1841.

They were the parents of nine children, of whom Jeremiah is the only survivor. Theron was born March 13, 1810. Philip, born July 31, 1812, married Ann Stuart, August 31, 1845. Margaret, born March 1, 1815, became the wife of Wesley Blaisdell, of New York state. George was born February 20, 1817; Joshua and Jeremiah, our subject, twins, were born September 19, 1820. Catherine, born October 29, 1823, wedded Nelson Platte, of Plattville, Illinois, and died March 10, 1846. Edward, born April 30, 1829, died September 27, 1839. Franklin, born January 30, 1835, resided at Plattville, this state, and died there March 22, 1845.

Jeremiah Collins received his early education in the Empire state. He was a lad of fourteen when he came west with his parents, and for sixty-five years he has made his dwelling place in Grundy county. He cut and hauled the first load of logs used in the construction of the first log house erected in the village of Morris. This was the home of John Cryder, and was situated on the hill just south of the present gas-house. Mr. Collins also took the first load of wheat from Au Sable township to Chicago, in August, 1841. His father was in very poor health, and it became necessary to procure some medicine and supplies from Chicago. Therefore, with

thirty-two bushels of wheat, tramped out on the barn floor by himself and brother Joshua and his horses, young Collins started for the city of future greatness, and after he had made the purchases he desired, was returning, but ere he reached home the sad news came to him that his father had died. About two years afterward the young man married and settled on a farm of his own, where he has steadily engaged in agriculture. His home is a commodious two-story frame dwelling, with various conveniences, and is finely situated, being placed upon the highest elevation upon his property. For three terms he has been the supervisor of his township, and at all times he has been depended upon by his neighbors to do all within his power in the promotion of good schools, good roads and good government.

The wife of Mr. Collins' early manhood was Hannah Mary, daughter of Michael and Eva Cryder, of Pennsylvania. Their marriage took place in 1843, and in 1845 Mrs. Collins died, as did their infant son, Phillip Henry. Several years passed away and at length our subject wedded Margaret W. Widney, the ceremony which united their destinies being performed November 16, 1853. She is a daughter of John and Mary Widney, of Kendall county, Illinois. The father, a well-to-do farmer, came to this state in 1845 from Miami county, Ohio, and died January 3, 1879, having survived his wife a short time, as her death occurred August 27, 1877. Their eldest child, Thomas, resides in Chicago; their second son, George, is in Mobile, Alabama; Mary is the wife of H. C. Henderson, of Morris, Illinois; Margaret W. is the next in order of birth; Rachel is the wife of John T. Van Dalsen (formerly of Au Sable township), who died in September, 1857; Joseph, deceased, was a farmer of Kendall county, this state; John J., deceased, also was a farmer of that county; and Luanna M. died in infancy.

Three children came to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Collins, namely: Joshua Rowe, Hannah Mary and Oscar Eugene. Hannah Mary, the only daughter, who was born May 15, 1857, died May 13, 1881. Joshua Rowe, born November 13, 1854, in Saratoga township, as were the others, is a farmer of this vicinity. He married Annie Holroyd, and has one son, Frank W. Oscar Eugene, born August 3, 1860, married Alice Holroyd, a sister of Mrs. Joshua R. Collins, October 18, 1888, and they, too, are engaged in agricultural pursuits in this neighborhood.

MADISON G. HAYMOND.

Among the retired farmers and worthy citizens of Morris, Grundy county, Illinois, is Madison G. Haymond.

The Haymonds have for many generations been residents of this country. Edward Haymond, the grandfather of Madison G., was born in Vir-

ginia, of German descent, and in Virginia he lived and died, acting the part of an industrious, upright citizen in times of peace and during the Revolutionary struggle serving as a brave soldier in the patriot army. He was the father of four sons, viz.: John, whose life was passed in Virginia; Hijah, who moved to Illinois in 1837 and settled in Kendall county, near Newark, where he spent his life as a farmer, and died; Owen, who was a blacksmith by trade, and came west at an early day, spent some time in Kendall county, Illinois, and then moved to Ogden, Utah, where he died a few years ago at an advanced age; and William, who was born in Virginia in 1807, and when a young man emigrated to Indiana, and located in Shelby county. There he was married to Miss Anna Griffin, a native of Kentucky. After a few years' residence in Indiana they came to Kendall county, Illinois, landing here June 3, 1837, and settling on a farm near Newark. Here he was engaged in agricultural pursuits until about 1865, when he moved to Norman township, Grundy county, where he died in 1873. After his death his widow returned to Indiana and died in Pulaski county, that state, in 1891, at the age of seventy years. They were the parents of twelve children, a record of whom is as follows: Thomas E., for many years a successful farmer of Norman township, Grundy county, died in 1872; James L., a lumber dealer of Kankakee, Illinois, who died in 1897; Frances E., who married a Mr. Osborn and died in Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1898; Madison G., whose name appears at the head of this sketch; John W., who was a member of the Ninety-first Illinois Regiment in the civil war, removed to Tennessee soon after the war and ten years later to Asheville, North Carolina, where he now resides; William C., who served in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Regiment in the civil war, and is a resident of Francisville, Indiana, engaged in the grain and lumber business; Margaret A., the wife of Nelson Gale, resides in Kansas; Surilda Jane, who died in Indiana at the age of thirty-five years; Mary E., who died in Grundy county, Illinois, about nine years ago; Amanda, who died at the age of fourteen years, in Kendall county, Illinois; Sarah E., wife of John Pruitt, is a resident of Pulaski county, Indiana; and Alpheus, of Kansas.

Madison G. Haymond was born in Shelby county, Indiana, November 9, 1836, and was nine months old when his parents moved to Kendall county, Illinois. On his father's farm in Kendall county he lived until twenty years old, when he came to Grundy county, where he has since resided. For six years he farmed rented land here and then he purchased an eighty-acre farm in Vienna township. As he was prospered he made additional land purchases until he became the owner of two hundred and forty-two acres of land in this township, all fine farming land, well improved, with two comfortable houses and two substantial barns thereon. He resided on his farm

until January 15, 1899, when he retired from active life and moved to Morris.

Mr. Haymond was married in 1861 to Eliza M. Pangburn, a native of Syracuse, New York. She died in 1895, at the age of fifty-two years. The fruits of this marriage were two children: Freddie, who died in infancy, and Katie M., the wife of C. G. Donahue, a hardware merchant of Morris, Illinois.

Mr. Haymond received the degrees of the Masonic lodge many years ago and retains his membership in that ancient and honored order. Politically he is a Democrat, and for a number of years has served in local office. Eighteen years he was a commissioner, and at this writing he is the supervisor of Vienna township.

CONSTANTINE G. DONAHUE.

Constantine G. Donahue, son-in-law of the gentleman whose sketch precedes this, Madison G. Haymond, is a hardware merchant of Morris, and one of the enterprising business men of the town.

Mr. Donahue, as the name suggests, is of Irish descent. His father, Patrick Donahue, was born on the Emerald Isle in 1821, and was first married in his native land, the marriage resulting in the birth of three children, —Mary, Jennie and Annie,—whom he brought with him to the United States in 1851, his wife having died in Ireland previous to that date. They settled in Utica, New York, where he was subsequently married to Miss Ellen Gilna, a native of the same county in which he was born,—Longford. She survives him and now resides with her son in Chicago, her age at this writing being seventy-seven years. After a short residence in Utica, Patrick Donahue removed with his family to Bennington, Vermont, where he worked at the potter's trade, which he had learned in Ireland. They remained at Bennington until about 1859, when they came to Grundy county, Illinois. Subsequently they lived two years in Michigan, but returned to Grundy county and located in Vienna township, where he died in 1868. The children of his second marriage are as follows: John T., a lawyer of Chicago; Constantine G., whose name introduces this sketch; Peter, on the home farm in Vienna township, Grundy county; Rose, who is married and is a resident of Chicago; Tillie, residing in Chicago with her brother, John T.; and Michael, deceased.

Constantine G. Donahue was born in Bennington, Vermont, June 24, 1857, was eleven years old when his father died, and for ten years thereafter worked on a farm by the month, and after he reached his ma-

jority was for six or seven years engaged in farming on rented land. He spent one season in Nebraska and Dakota. In 1887 he engaged in the farming implement business in the town of Wauponsee, Grundy county, where he remained until November, 1898. That year he closed out his business there and with Albert Newport bought out Jacob Geisen, of Morris, and under the firm name of Donahue & Newport has since conducted a hardware and agricultural implement business at this place.

Mr. Donahue was married in January, 1897, to Miss Katie Haymond, who is referred to in the above sketch. Fraternally Mr. Donahue is a Knight of Pythias.

GEORGE H. WEITZ.

The town of Stockdale stands as a monument to the enterprise and business ability of this gentleman, who has conducted one of its leading industries and who has been prominently connected with its official interests. He is now a member of the well-known firm of W. A. Remington & Company, and since 1894 has been a partner in the sheep industry at this place, although from its establishment here he acted as manager.

A native of Illinois, he was born in Geneseo, Henry county, on the 17th of September, 1865, his parents being Conrad and Mary (Horchler) Weitz. Both parents were natives of Germany, the former born in Saxony and the latter in Hessen-Darmstadt. The father was reared upon a farm in the land of his birth, and when about twenty-seven years of age was married there. Subsequently he determined to try his fortune in America, and in 1853 crossed the broad Atlantic to the New World, taking up his residence in St. Louis, Missouri. The same year, however, he made his way up the Illinois river and located in Ottawa, where he spent one year. On the expiration of that period he removed to Geneseo, Illinois, in 1854, and there engaged in contracting and building. He became actively identified with the building interests of that locality, and many of the substantial structures of the city and surrounding country stand as monuments to his skill and ability. He died April 9, 1896, at the age of seventy years, his birth occurring on the 9th of April, 1826. His widow still resides in Geneseo, having reached the age of three-score years and ten. Their children are Hannah, the wife of John Young, of Wabash county, Indiana; Lewis, of Geneseo; Emma, the wife of William Kenney, of Chicago; William, who is living in Geneseo; and George H., who completes the list.

In taking up the personal history of George H. Weitz we present to our readers the record of one who is widely and favorably known in Grundy

county, and his life in many respects is well worthy of emulation. Although a young business man, he has already attained a success that may well be envied by those whose years far outnumber his own. He was reared in Geneseo, and in the common schools obtained his education. For twenty years he has been connected with the stock-breeding industries. In 1876 he entered the employ of J. Galaghan & Company, of which W. A. Remington was then the junior partner. The relation between these two gentlemen has since continued, Mr. Weitz remaining in Mr. Remington's employ until 1895, when he was admitted to partnership in the business. He resided in Geneseo until 1894, since which time he has made his home in Stockdale. They began business here July 12, 1890, feeding sheep for the market and preparing them for shipment. Their sheep barns have a capacity of fourteen thousand head, and their sales are extensive, bringing a handsome financial return. They are also partners in the Floral Fertilizer Company, which has recently been organized for the purpose of manufacturing fertilizing materials. Between October, 1898, and July, 1899, they fed one hundred and fifty thousand sheep, purchasing these animals in the northwest and shipping them to Stockdale, where they are fattened for the market. They are then sold to Chicago dealers, and the extent of the business has made it one of the leading industries in this section of the state.

In 1889 Mr. Weitz was united in marriage to Miss Maria Hauschild, of Geneseo, and they now have two children,—Henry and Mae, who are twins. Their friends are numbered among the best citizens of the community, and they enjoy the hospitality of the leading homes in this section of the county.

Mr. Weitz is a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree. Not only has he been prominently connected with the business interests of Stockdale, but in other lines also has he contributed to its advancement. He is serving as the postmaster, having filled the position since the establishment of the office, on the 29th of November, 1897. Mr. Weitz is a public-spirited and progressive man and gives his support to all measures calculated to promote the material, social, educational and moral welfare of the community. Prosperity has attended his efforts in business, and the qualities which have insured his success are keen discernment, marked executive ability and indefatigable energy.

JOSHUA HOGE, JR.

Among the native citizens of Grundy county is Mr. Hoge, whose birth occurred upon the old family homestead, July 25, 1850, his parents being Samuel and Matilda (Holderman) Hoge, whose sketch appears elsewhere in

this volume. As soon as he was old enough to handle the plow he began work in the fields and soon became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. Throughout his active business career he has engaged in farming and in stock-raising, but in 1898 he retired from the farm and removed to Morris, where he now resides. He has purchased cattle quite extensively in Illinois and other states, and engaged in feeding and marketing them, in early days, in New York and other eastern markets, but later in Chicago. He sustains an unassailable reputation in business circles by reason of his straightforward dealing and unquestioned integrity.

In 1876 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hoge and Miss Laura Quigley, a native of Pennsylvania. Their union was blessed with two children: Samuel and Eva M.; but the wife and mother was called to her final rest April 2, 1896. Eva M., the daughter, passed away in death October 7, 1899. October 4, 1899, Mr. Hoge married Mrs. Mary J. Peacock, nee Noble. In his political views Mr. Hoge is a stalwart Republican, warmly advocating the principles of his party, but has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his energies entirely to his business interests, in which he has met with very creditable and gratifying success. He is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family, and is accounted one of Grundy county's valued native citizens.

GEORGE WATERS.

George Waters, Mazon, Illinois, is one of the substantial farmers and respected citizens of Mazon township, of which he is a native and in which his father was one of the earliest pioneers. George Waters is a son of William and Bathena (Booth) Waters. William Waters was born August 12, 1818, in London, England, a son of William Waters, Sr., who came to America in 1833. He left England February 6, 1833, and landed at New York April 11, 1833, bringing his family, except his son William, who had come over a few years earlier. The elder William Waters was a stonemason and became a contractor in stone work on the Michigan canal, and constructed many of the docks along the canal, notably those at Joliet. His children were William, John, James, Elijah, Robert and Ann.

William Waters, Jr., a son of William Waters, Sr., and the father of George Waters, left home in 1828, when he was about ten years of age, and crossed the Atlantic ocean with his uncle, William Atkins, and his family. William Atkins, who had married his father's sister, settled on Hickory creek, three miles southeast of Joliet, Illinois, and there passed his remain-

George Waters.

Mrs George Waters

ing days. He improved a farm and became well known as an enterprising and public-spirited citizen. William Waters, Jr., lived with Mr. Atkins for some years, and when a young man went to Vermilion county, Indiana, eighteen miles north of Terre Haute. There he married Bathena Booth, and they settled in Vermilion county, Indiana, and lived with her mother, who had married a Mr. Hiddle. It should be stated that her mother's estate eventually went to the Hiddle heirs.

William Waters came to Grundy county, Illinois, in 1846, and located wild land, which he entered in 1847, and here he settled and made improvements. That pioneer farm of forty acres is a part of the larger farm which his son George now owns and operates. To this he added forty acres, more of wild land, which he purchased at a dollar and a quarter an acre. Mr. Waters made the first improvement and built the first log cabin on the east side of the middle branch of the Mazon, or Brewster's slough, as it is called. He soon put the land under a good state of cultivation and erected substantial pioneer buildings. He was a well-known citizen and respected pioneer farmer. In politics he was a Douglas or war Democrat. His children were: Jane, who died May 12, 1862, aged sixteen years, one month and twenty-five days; Henry; Jonas and George, twins; and William and Susan died in infancy. By thrift and industry Mr. Waters added to this land, and at his death owned one hundred and thirty-seven acres. He died September 14, 1861, aged forty-three years, one month and three days, as the result of an accident. Bathena, the wife of William Waters, died March 18, 1856, aged thirty-five years, four months and eight days.

George Waters, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born on the old homestead where he now lives, February 22, 1851. He received a good common-school education, and learned farming thoroughly. He prospered by industry and good management and became a substantial citizen, and during recent years has been engaged somewhat extensively in the grain business. He is a trusted citizen of his township, and for nine years filled the office of road commissioner to the entire satisfaction of the people. In political opinion he is a Republican. He was married December 1, 1872, in old Mazon, to Sarah Johnston, born April 5, 1852, on the George Miers farm in Mazon township, a daughter of Matthew and Mary J. (Preston) Johnston. Matthew Johnston was from Pennsylvania and married in Guernsey county, Ohio, Mary J. Preston. He settled in Ohio, where he worked at his trade of bricklayer, and in 1851 moved to Illinois and settled in Mazon township. He afterward bought a farm in Good Farm township, where he owns three hundred and sixty acres, and became a prosperous farmer and well-to-do citizen. His children are William, Andrew, Mary, Hattie (who died an infant), Sarah, Finley, John, Charles, Belle and Nellie.

Mr. Johnston and his wife are both members of the Methodist church, and he is a Republican in politics. He has retired from active life and is living in Mazon, where he is respected as a public-spirited and helpful citizen. He has always been an upright and valued member of the community and has reared an excellent family. After their marriage George Waters and his wife remained on the old homestead, and here he has passed all his life since, and will doubtless end his days. He has been deservedly prosperous and now owns four hundred and seventy-eight acres of fine farm land and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of his township.

To George and Sarah (Johnston) Waters have been born two children: Berton, born July 1, 1877; and Ethel L., born December 28, 1885, and died January 27, 1892, aged about six years.

Mr. Waters is a public-spirited man and is interested in all measures tending to the public good, and is especially desirous that good roads shall be secured and maintained throughout the country, and is willing to do his part toward the accomplishment of this end. He has through life maintained a high character, and is well known for reliability and capability as a practical business man.

WILLIAM MERRIAM.

It is always of interest to investigate the cause of success, to learn what has produced prosperity. In the history of this gentleman we have recorded the life of one who is truly a self-made man, for he started out in life empty-handed and steadily worked his way upward, overcoming the obstacles in his path by determined purpose and ultimately acquiring a handsome competence which has enabled him to live retired.

He was born November 19, 1829, in Jefferson county, New York, a son of Archibald and Polly (Buhall) Merriam, both of whom were natives of New York. His father died when William was only six years of age, but he resided in Jefferson county until nineteen years of age, spending a part of the time in his mother's home. Early in life, however, he began to provide for his own maintenance and learned the trades of cabinet-making and painting. In 1848 he arrived in the west, locating first at Somonauk. He afterward worked on the farm by the month for a year, and then going to Joliet he secured a position on a canal boat as bowsman. He had only six dollars at the time of his arrival in Illinois and had made the journey to the west upon borrowed money. On the canal boat he mastered all the various duties in connection with its operation and for one and a half years he steered a freight boat. That boat was consigned to John P. Chapin, of Chi-

cago, and he entered his employ, a connection that was continued for seven years, during which time he served on various boats, including the Queen of Joliet, Grand Turk, Charter Oak, Woodford, and the J. D. Harmon, and then became owner of a boat of his own called the Bill Merriam. This he ran for two years, at the end of which time he sold a half interest, and in 1860 he sold the other half. The following year he purchased eighty acres of land in Wauponsee township and turned his attention to farming, which he carried on until 1884. In the operation of his land he displayed great industry and enterprisé, and as a result of his careful management and business ability he became the owner of a very valuable and productive farm. He made his home there until 1884, when he took up his abode in Morris, but he still owns two hundred and eighty acres of land, from which he derives a good income.

In Grundy county, in 1854, Mr. Merriam was united in marriage to Miss Rubie S. Lyons, also a native of the Empire state, and a daughter of Vernon and Mariah (Taylor) Lyons, who removed from Philadelphia, New York, to Kendall county, Illinois, in 1847, locating about six miles east of Lisbon. Ten years later they came to Morris, where they spent their remaining days, the father passing away in 1872, at the age of sixty-three years. He was a farmer by occupation, but also followed carpentering. Mrs. Merriam is the only survivor of her father's family. Our subject and his wife have no children of their own, but reared an adopted daughter, Hattie (Bowen) Merriam, wife of William H. Slater, of Kansas. Mrs. Merriam is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Merriam is a supporter of that organization. In politics he is a Republican, and has served as road commissioner, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business interests, in which he has met with very creditable success. His life has been one of activity, but he is now living in retirement and enjoying the rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

JAMES E. ARMSTRONG.

One of the most prominent educators connected with the public schools of Illinois is James E. Armstrong, who is now principal of the Englewood high school. His marked ability has gained him prestige, for his scholarly attainments are supplemented by superior ability in imparting clearly and concisely to others the knowledge he has acquired. With a just appreciation of the importance of his work he has given to it the most earnest thought, study and investigation, and his methods are therefore progressive

and intensely practical, serving as an excellent preparation for the duties of life.

Mr. Armstrong is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in LaSalle county, on the 30th of November, 1855. Like so many of the most prominent men in professional circles, his boyhood days were spent upon the farm, and the work of field and meadow gave to him the strong physical development needed in carrying on his labors in later life. He followed the plow and assisted in the harvesting through the summer months, while in the winter season he pursued his education in the district schools. At the age of nineteen he was employed to teach the school which he had attended up to that time, and, though younger than many of his pupils, he was so successful in the work that he was again employed to teach that school through the following winter. During those two winter months the lash, which had formerly been considered as essential in the matter of education as the text-books or blackboard, was banished. The excellent results which attended his work in the district school determined his future career. With the money earned during the first winter he paid his expenses while attending the village high school in Marseilles during the spring and fall months, and with the money earned during his second season of teaching he entered upon a college course in the University of Illinois. He was graduated in the class of 1881 with such high honors that he was made instructor in mathematics in that institution the following year. After a year's service he was elected principal of a village school in Arlington Heights, Cook county, where he remained for three years, during which time he greatly advanced the standard of the schools there.

On the expiration of that period he resigned in order to accept a position in the Lake high school of Chicago, as instructor in sciences. In that school he established the first chemical laboratory in the Chicago high schools in which the pupils performed the work. During his services there he and a fellow teacher wrote and published Armstrong & Norton's Chemical Laboratory Guide, the book now being used in high schools throughout the country. In 1889 he was appointed principal of the Lake high school, and two years later was transferred to the Englewood high school, which position he still fills. This school ranks second in size in Chicago, and if ranked by honors taken in prizes for scholarships, essays, orations, athletic banners and art displays it would stand first. Professor Armstrong is in close touch with the work done in every department of the school, and is ever ready and willing to aid teachers and pupils that intellectual progress may be carried still further forward. Advancement is the watchword of the school, and the thoroughness and proficiency of the work well qualifies the students for the practical duties which may devolve upon them in the active affairs of life.

The habits of thoroughness and mental concentration which are there formed may prove important elements in their careers after leaving the school-room, and it is because Professor Armstrong regards education as the preparation for life that his school has been so successful. He attributes his success largely to his training on the farm, where as a boy he had to learn to be independent. A maxim then instilled into his mind was, "When a thing gets out of order fix it," and another was, "Save everything: if it is not good for one purpose save it for another." These principles have largely influenced his career as an educator and in a great degree have been the means of winning for him the high position which he now occupies in educational circles.

In the year 1892 Professor Armstrong was elected on the state ticket as a trustee of the University of Illinois. In this capacity he served for six years, taking a prominent part in conducting the affairs of the school. As the chairman of the committee he secured for the university its able president, Dr. A. S. Draper. It was also due to his efforts that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago and the Chicago College of Pharmacy became departments of the university. He was honored by the position of president of the board of trustees of the university during the year 1897-8, and his wise counsel and effective labors resulted in raising its standard of education higher than ever before.

Professor Armstrong was married July 12, 1883, to Miss Clara A. Clark, a daughter of Lucius Clark, of Marseilles. They now have two children,—Grace C. and Charles H. Their home is the center of a cultured society circle, and their friends are many in the section of the city where they live. Professor Armstrong is a man of broad humanitarian principles, and a deep and personal interest in the welfare of his pupils has been one of the strong elements in his success as an educator.

CHARLES G. ARMSTRONG.

In a profession where advancement is dependent upon knowledge and skill, success is achieved only through individual merit. It is a wise provision of nature that learning cannot be inherited, that we enter this world on an equal intellectual basis, and therefore are dependent upon our own labors and application for the learning which fits us for life's practical duties. Each individual masters the same rudiments of knowledge as all others, and when this is accomplished it will then be found that he has developed the ability to carry his labors still farther along special lines, fitting him for a particular work. It is true that with only an elementary education some may enter certain lines of business and attain success, or by inheritance or influence

secure control of a prosperous enterprise; but in professional life progress and success depend solely upon the efforts of the individual,—his close application, his mastery of scientific principles and his ability to apply them to the affairs of life.

Greater credit is therefore due one who owes his prosperous and enviable business standing to his own labors, as does Mr. Armstrong, who is numbered among the most capable electrical engineers in the entire country. Steadily he has advanced step by step until he has long since left the ranks of the many to stand among the successful few, and material evidences of his marked ability are seen in some of the finest buildings throughout the land. He has his office and maintains his residence in Chicago, but as consulting electrical engineer he has traveled throughout the greater part of the Union, and has gained a reputation scarcely second to any in the country.

Charles Goold Armstrong is one of the "native sons" of whom LaSalle county, Illinois, has every reason to be proud. He was born there August 23, 1858, and in the public schools acquired his preliminary education. His boyhood days were spent upon the home farm, and he early became familiar with the labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His early school training was supplemented by a course in the University of Illinois, at Champaign, having made his own way through college, thus showing forth the elemental strength of his character, which in later years has enabled him to work his way steadily upward.

For two years after leaving the university Mr. Armstrong was engaged in the drug business, and then devoted three years to civil engineering. Since that time he has given his entire attention to electrical engineering, and in 1890 opened an office in Chicago. During the ten years which have come and gone from the time he first began business in Chicago he has served as consulting electrical engineer in connection with the equipment of many of the finest buildings in the city and throughout the country. He served in that capacity for the Auditorium, the Schiller Theater, the Great Northern Theater and the Stock Exchange Building, of Chicago; the Union Trust Building and the St. Nicholas Hotel, in St. Louis; the Commercial Building of Louisville, Kentucky; the City Hall, the Milwaukee Public Library and the Pabst power plant, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the plant of the Marquette Placer Mining Company, in central Colorado; the Guarantee Building, in Buffalo, New York; the Grand Central Depot and the Union Loan & Investment Company Building, in New York city; and the St. Anthony Falls Water Power Company, at Minneapolis, having an electrical plant of ten thousand horse power, this power being transmitted ten miles,—a marvelous piece of electrical engineering. These serve to indicate the marked ability of Mr. Armstrong, whose close study of electricity and his thorough understanding

of its uses have made him one of the leaders in his profession in the United States.

In 1881 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Armstrong and Miss Frances Lowry, a daughter of Colonel Francis Lowry, who was the commander of the One Hundred and Seventh Regiment of Illinois Volunteers during the civil war, and was killed at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. To Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have been born four children: Florence, Frances, Clara and Charlotte. In his political views Mr. Armstrong is a Republican. Socially he is connected with the Union League Club of Chicago. His own life, in its splendid success, illustrates most clearly the opportunities which this land, unhampered by caste or class, offers to those who really desire advancement. His social qualities, courtesy and kindly manner have won him many friends, and the circle of his acquaintances is very extensive.

JOHN GLENNAN.

John Glennan was born October 10, 1840, in the city of London, a son of James and Mary (O'Brien) Glennan. His parents were both natives of Ireland, but left that country at the time of the rebellion there and sought a home in London. About 1843 they emigrated to Canada, where they spent one year, going thence to Chicago, where Mr. Glennan left his family while he proceeded to Morris and erected here a little log cabin. On its completion he brought his wife and children to the humble little home which he had prepared, and thus at an early day the subject of this review became identified with the city which is yet his home. His father was a blacksmith and machinist by trade, and spent the remainder of his life in Morris, his death occurring in 1855. His wife, long surviving him, passed away in 1892. Only two children were born to them: John, whose name introduces this review; and Dr. Michael Glennan, who is now living in Ludlow, Champaign county, Illinois.

John Glennan was only three years of age when his parents crossed the Atlantic to the New World. He accompanied them on their various removals, and at the age of thirteen he began to earn his own living by serving an apprenticeship to the carpenter and joiner's trade. In a few years he had fairly mastered the business, becoming an expert workman, and has since followed that vocation, doing considerable contract work. Thus he has been actively connected with the building interests of Morris and has aided greatly in its substantial development and improvement.

In 1862 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Glennan and Miss Mary Maxim, a daughter of John Maxim, of Morris, and to them have been

born eight children, namely: Mary Theressa, who is living in Joliet, Illinois; James, at home; John, deceased; Julia, who is also with her parents; John, who has passed away; Maggie and Michael, who are still at their parental home; and Edward, deceased. Mr. Glennan and his family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, and in politics he is a Democrat, but he has had neither time nor inclination for public office. His residence in Morris covers more than half a century. He was a pupil in the first school here, and has ever been interested in the welfare and progress of the city, giving his support to many measures which he believes will prove a public good.

JONAS WATERS.

Jonas Waters, son of William and Bathenia (Booth) Waters, was born February 22, 1851, on his father's old homestead in Mazon township, Grundy county, Illinois, and is a twin brother of George Waters, a biographical sketch of whom appears in this work. He attended the public schools and was, in a very practical way, instructed in all that pertains to successful farming. He was married December 3, 1871, in Gardner, Illinois, to Miss Alvaretta Whitesel, who was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1853, a daughter of John N. and Susan (Truby) Whitesel and a granddaughter of Jonathan and Susan (Wensel) Whitesel, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Jonathan Whitesel was a tanner and pioneer in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, where he settled in the woods, cleared up a farm, built a sawmill and operated both the farm and the sawmill and prospered very satisfactorily. He married September 17, 1815, and his children were named John N., Elizabeth, Susan, James P., Diana, Catherine, Jonathan and Mary E. He was a man of strong religious opinion and of high moral character, a Presbyterian and a Democrat. He died July 1, 1875, aged eighty-five years, having been a widower since July 1, 1854. His father came to Pennsylvania in early days and died aged ninety-three.

John N. Whitesel was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1816, and his educational advantages were limited to those afforded by the common schools. He married Susan Truby, October 6, 1842. Miss Truby was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth (McCoy) Truby, of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction, who had other children named James, John and Margaret, who died many years ago. Mr Truby died when about seventy years of age. They were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. John N. Whitesel settled on his father's homestead in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania,

Jonas Waters

Mrs. Avaretta Waters.

and farmed and operated the sawmill on the place for many years. In 1867 he came to Illinois, bringing his family with him, and on the first day of April located at Gardner, Grundy county, Illinois. Not long afterward he settled in Good Farm township, Grundy county, on eighty acres of land, which he improved and on which he lived until 1883, when he removed to Adams county, Nebraska, and settled on an improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, where he died December 30, 1891, aged seventy-five years and nine months. He was a Democrat and a Presbyterian, a man of public spirit, especially devoted to the common schools, for many years a school commissioner and long an elder in his church. He was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, and died regretted by all who knew him. His children, all born in Pennsylvania, were as follows. Mary E.; Lobana C.; Jonathan L.; Johanna, who died in Pennsylvania, aged eight years; Alvaretta; James P., who died in Pennsylvania, aged six years; Christopher T.; John E.; and William C. Mary E. was the only one of the surviving children of Mr. Whitesel who did not come west with him. She had married Isaac Wible and located in Pennsylvania.

Jonas Waters and his wife settled in Mazon township, in 1872, on one hundred and twenty acres of land which Mr. Waters rented. They removed to their farm in Maine township, March 8, 1876. The place then consisted of eighty-six acres under considerable improvement. By hard work and good management Mr. Waters has added to his acreage until it has expanded to three hundred and twenty-nine acres. In 1895 he built a tasteful two-story residence, which bears many evidences of refinement and is one of the model homes of the township. In all the years of struggle which have thus brought their substantial reward to Mr. Waters he has been ably assisted by his faithful and helpful wife, who has proven herself a helpmeet to him in the best sense of the term. Recently Mr. Waters has erected a very pleasant residence in the village of Mazon, and is now living retired there, enjoying the rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

Mr. Waters is a prominent Republican and a member of the Republican central committee of Grundy county. He was for three years town trustee, is a justice of the peace and has been for thirteen years a member of the district school board. His interest in education impels him to do everything in his power to improve the standard of the public schools. He has won the success of the self-made man and has a right to be proud of what he has achieved. No man in his township has a higher reputation for uprightness and integrity and all of the other attributes of the good and useful citizen. He began the battle of life aggressively at the age of eighteen and has fought a tireless and winning fight.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Waters have two sons,—Clarence B., born May

27, 1876, and Ollin W., born March 8, 1889, and they brought up from childhood Mrs. Waters' niece, Clara A. Whitesel, daughter of Lobana C. Whitesel, whom they educated and treated in every respect as if she had been their own daughter, and who is now the wife of William Spence, a well-known Grundy county farmer. Their home is a pleasant one, characterized by refinement, and is presided over by Mrs. Waters in a manner well calculated to impress the visitor with its generous hospitality.

It will be interesting in this connection to note something of the history of Clarence Waters, who is now operating the farm belonging to his father, Jonas Waters. He was reared under the parental roof, enjoying such privileges, opportunities and pleasures as are usually afforded to farmer lads. He was married January 25, 1900, in Norman township, Grundy county, to Miss Jessie May Renne, and thus became connected with another of the old and distinguished pioneer families. Her grandfather is one of the few remaining pioneers of Grundy county, his residence here dating from 1848. He was born March 11, 1812, at Cairo, Greene county, New York, son of James and Sarah (Smith) Renne. His father was the son of John Renne, who was twice married, his second wife being Miss Effie Wood. John Renne was born in 1735, in Rennes, France. He and his two brothers crossed the Atlantic to Canada at an early day. The brothers afterward returned to France, and it was reported that they were drowned. John Renne was captured in 1759 in the war against France and brought to Connecticut. He settled at Tower Hill, in Dutchess county, New York, locating on a farm, and later removed with a company of pioneers to Greene county, New York, making the journey with ox carts. There he developed a new farm. He had three children,—Samuel, Peter and Sally,—by his first wife. The mother died in Connecticut, and he afterward wedded Miss Effie Wood, their children being James, John, Richard, Stephen, Polly, Phoebe, Susan and Lucy. John Renne died and is buried in Greene county, New York. He owned there two hundred acres of land and was a substantial agriculturist and an upright citizen. For many years he served as a deacon in the Presbyterian church and died in that faith, May 14, 1822.

James Renne, great-grandfather of Mrs. Waters, was born at Tower Hill, New York, in 1773, and during his early boyhood accompanied his parents to Greene county, that state, where he became a farmer. He inherited a portion of the old homestead and purchased the remainder. He married Miss Sally Smith, of Greene county, and their children were Smith, Horace, Justin, James, George, Eleanor, Effie, Emeline, Lucy A. and Sarah J. Mr. Renne resided on his farm in Greene county until his death in 1830. He was a man of sterling worth and greatly respected. He held the office of justice of the peace for several years and was the administrator of several

estates. He was frequently called upon to arbitrate difficulties, for his justice was one of his strongest characteristics. For forty years his decisions as justice of the peace were not reversed. He was a man of excellent legal attainments and acquired his success through his own efforts. He owned a good farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres and his capable management of his farming operations brought to him a comfortable competence.

Justin Renne, the grandfather of Mrs. Waters, obtained a good education, pursuing a high school course. He was reared to the work of the farm, but for a time followed the sea and later worked at tanning, stone-cutting and bridge building. He also engaged in boating on the Hudson river when a young man. He was married in Greene county, New York, October 3, 1837, to Miss Maria Hinchman, who was born at Rhinebeck, Dutchess county, New York, August 23, 1809, a daughter of Obadiah Hinchman. Her father was of English descent, was born in Long Island, was a mechanic by trade and died in the Empire state. His children were William, Maria, Jane, John, Alfred, Sarah and Elizabeth. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Justin Renne located on the old Renne homestead, a part of which he inherited. There they resided until their emigration westward. He engaged in business as a stone-mason, did much bridge-building and became a very skillful mechanic, taking many contracts for the stone work on bridges along the line of the New York and New Haven Railroad, receiving as high as four dollars per day for his services, which was considered excellent wages at that time. In 1848 he removed to Illinois, making the journey by way of the Hudson river, the Erie canal and Lake Erie to Detroit, thence by Lake Michigan to Chicago. He first settled in that city, but did no business there. In June, 1848, he came by way of the Illinois and Michigan canal to Morris on the first boat that ran through to Rock Island. In July he located upon the present farm, then a tract of wild land, and on the 14th of September, 1849, purchased the property, consisting of one hundred acres, which he has transformed into a very fertile and valuable tract. He was one of the early constables of Grundy county, and served in that capacity from 1849 until 1876. He was also the first supervisor of Vienna township, holding the position for eight years after its organization. He is a man of excellent judgment and much natural ability, and has long been regarded as one of the valued citizens and honored pioneers of Grundy county. In politics he is a stanch Democrat. His children are Ferdinand, George, Jerome, Isabel, Douglass and Horace, all born in the Empire state.

George C. Renne, the father of Mrs. Clarence B. Waters, and a son of Justin Renne, was born in New York, February 23, 1840, and was about eight years old when he came with his parents to Illinois, where he was

reared upon the pioneer farm. He acquired a common-school education, and during the civil war he joined the army as a private in Company D, Seventy-second Illinois Infantry, with which he served for three years. He participated in a number of battles, including the siege of Vicksburg. Becoming disabled, he was in the hospital for a time and never fully recovered, but rejoined his regiment and again took part in active service. After the war he returned to Grundy county and was married November 5, 1867, in Norman township, to Harriet M. Allen, who was born in New Hampshire, May 11, 1846, a daughter of Rodney Allen. They have two children,—Lorena E., who was born September 23, 1870, and Jessie M., born July 24, 1873. The former was married February 2, 1898, to George W. Smith, a hardware merchant at Smithshire, Illinois. The latter is the wife of Clarence B. Waters. Mr. Renne still resides upon his farm and is a progressive agriculturist of the community. His wife and daughter are members of the Universalist church, and the family is one of prominence in the community. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and has served in several township offices, including that of township clerk. He was a very loyal soldier during the war of the rebellion and is a highly respected citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence B. Waters reside upon the old Waters homestead, for his parents are living in Mazon, where his father, Jonas Waters, has recently erected a tasteful, modern residence. He purchased seven lots there and is now spending his days in quiet retirement from business, while his son Clarence operates the home farm, managing affairs with signal ability.

ALLEN F. MALLORY.

If those who claim that fortune has favored certain individuals above others will but investigate the cause of success and failure, it will be found that the former is largely due to the improvement of opportunity, the latter to the neglect of it. Fortunate environments encompass nearly every man at some stage in his career, but the strong man and the successful man is he who realizes that the proper moment has come, that the present and not the future holds his opportunity. The man who makes use of the Now and not the To Be is the one who passes on the highway of life others who started out ahead of him and reaches the goal of prosperity far in advance of them. It is this quality in Mr. Mallory that has made him a leader in the business world and won him a name in connection with the hotel interests that is known throughout the state.

Mr. Mallory was born in Ohio City, now West Cleveland, Ohio, on the 6th of November, 1840, opening his eyes to the light of day in the family

home on Pearl street. His parents were Hiram and Phoebe (Hall) Mallory. In the "rocked-ribbed" country of Wales the family originated, the ancestry being traced back to Bigor Mallory, who came from Wales to America, locating in Connecticut. The grandfather of our subject was Isaac Mallory, a native also of that state, whence he removed to Chautauqua county, New York. Hiram Mallory, the father of Allen F., was born in Chautauqua county, and afterward removed westward to Ohio. He was eighteen years of age when he left the parental fireside and started out in life on his own account. Making his way to Cleveland, he there gained his first experience in connection with the operation of canal boats. He became the general passenger agent for the boats plying on the Ohio canal, and was holding that position when, by reason of the introduction of railroads, the canal boat business became unprofitable and was suspended. He had been a resident of Cleveland but a short time when he returned to New York, and there married Phoebe Hall, who was born in Westfield, of the Empire state, and was of English lineage. She lived only three years after her marriage. Her health failing her, Mr. Mallory took her back to her native town, hoping that she would be benefited thereby, but her death occurred in 1848. She left three children: Allen F.; Frank, of Nebraska; and Viola, now the wife of F. H. Green, of Chicago. All were born in West Cleveland, Ohio. After the death of his first wife the father married Jeanette Barnes, who died in Morris in 1854. In the same year he wedded Mrs. Hannah Howard, a sister of the late Judge W. Hopkins. She was the first milliner of Morris, and the old shop which she occupied is still standing, just opposite the Hotel Commercial. She is still living, her home being now in Chicago.

Hiram Mallory became a resident of Morris in 1852. He had but recently met with financial reverses in Cleveland and came to this city a poor man. Not long afterward he became interested in canal-boating, which he followed up to the time of his death. He also engaged in farming and grain dealing. For several years he bought grain in the old "red warehouse" on Canal street, and was a very energetic and enterprising man. He met with several reverses in his business career, yet at the time of his death he was the possessor of a comfortable competence. His life was honorable, his disposition genial, and he won the respect and friendship of all with whom he came in contact. Socially he was a Mason. His political relations were necessarily changed as new issues arose before the people, and after giving his support to the Whig party for a time he became a stanch Abolitionist. When the Republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks and was one of its loyal supporters until his death, which occurred in Morris in 1872. At his death

the community lost one of its best citizens, for he had been an important factor in the commercial life of the community, and was at all times loyal to the best interests of the place.

Allen F. Mallory, whose name introduces this review, has had a checkered career, and yet by determined purpose he has worked his way upward and now occupies a leading position among the prominent business men of Morris. He was only eight years of age when his mother died. He spent the five succeeding years in Ohio and then came to Morris, where he received the motherly attention of his father's third wife, a most excellent woman. His education was obtained in the public schools, but his privileges were somewhat limited, for soon after his arrival in this city he entered the printing office of the Morris Yeoman, the first paper printed in the town. After working at the trade for ten months he was taken ill, suffering an attack of typhoid fever. Upon recovery he resumed work in the office, but about six months later was again ill with the same disease. This ended his experience in connection with journalistic interests. In later life he had a third attack of typhoid fever, a most unusual occurrence, but what is more remarkable his health was not impaired beyond the time the fever lasted. On leaving the printing office Mr. Mallory secured a position in a machine shop, where he was employed for a year, after which he spent one year as a clerk in the grocery store of M. R. Keller. In the spring of 1861 he became connected with canal-boating, but when hostilities were inaugurated between the north and south he put aside all personal considerations and entered the Union service.

In Chicago, in the old "Wigwam" building in which Lincoln was first nominated for the presidency, was organized, in July, 1861, the Chicago Light Artillery Company, commanded by Captain Busteed. It was this company which Mr. Mallory joined, and with his command went to Washington, District of Columbia, where they were armed and drilled; but the war department discovered some questionable conduct on the part of the officers of the Chicago Light Artillery, which, in consequence, was disbanded. The privates, however, were given the privilege of joining any convenient regiment. The First New York Infantry reached Washington at that time and the private soldiers from Grundy county, thirty-five in number, joined Battery B, First Regiment of Light Artillery, New York Volunteers. Mr. Mallory became a member of Battery B, and was mustered in as a bugler, September 9, 1861, for a term of three years. On the 22d of February, 1864, he veteranized and was again enrolled in the same battery to serve three years or during the war, being discharged at Elmira, New York, June 18, 1865, after hostilities had ceased. Robert E. Rogers, then the captain of his company, on signing his discharge, placed upon the

paper the following: "Allen F. Mallory is an excellent and trustworthy soldier. He has participated in the following battles: Fair Oaks, Virginia, June 1, 1862; battles in front of Richmond, Virginia, June 1 to June 29; Peach Orchard, Virginia, June 29, 1862; Savage Station, Virginia, June 29; White Oak Swamp, June 30; Malvern Hill, July 1; Second Bull Run, August 30; Antietam, Maryland, September 17; Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 11-13, 1862; Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 1, 2, 3, 1863; Gettysburg, July 1, 2, 3, 1863; Mine Run, November 30, 1863; Wilderness, Virginia, May 5, 6, 1864; Spottsylvania Court House, May 18, 1864; North Anna River, May 23; Bethesda Church, June 1; Cold Harbor, June 3; Petersburg, June 17 to August 16; Weldon Railroad, Virginia, August 18, 19, 21, 1864; and all battles from March 28 to the surrender of Lee's army April 9, 1865. At the battle of Gettysburg Mr. Mallory was wounded in the head. He was sent to the hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, but three months later rejoined his command. He was a valiant soldier, always loyal to the old flag and the cause it represented, and on many a southern battle-field he displayed great bravery. He was one of the organizers of the fifth Grand Army post in the United States, but on account of political struggles this post was relieved of its charter, and he is now a member of Darveaux Post, of Morris.

While in the army Mr. Mallory sent money back home, and with this his father purchased a canal-boat. Upon his return in July, 1865, he took charge of the boat, which he conducted through a season and then began working in Morris. The following spring he again took charge of the boat, but in June he sold it and went to Chicago, where he engaged in the grocery business, at No. 61 Milwaukee avenue, under the firm name of A. F. Mallory & Brother. For a year he conducted that store, and then again engaged in canal-boating for a short time. In November, 1867, he purchased a grocery stock in Chicago, shipped it to Morris, and for eighteen years was one of the successful grocery merchants of this city, enjoying a large and profitable trade. On the expiration of that period he went to Kankakee, Illinois, where he purchased a hotel and conducted it four years. He still owns and manages the Hotel Commercial at Kankakee, an excellent hostelry supplied with all modern improvements. In 1889 he purchased the old Hanna & LeRoy business block in Morris, remodeled it and converted it into a modern hotel of fifty rooms. This was opened on the 31st of December, 1889. It also is called by the name of Hotel Commercial, as is the Kankakee house. Each contains fifty rooms, and both hotels are successfully managed by Mr. Mallory and his wife, who, like him, possesses excellent business ability. In this connection our subject has become known throughout the state. He has the genial disposition and kindly

manner so necessary to a successful hotel proprietor, and with a sincere interest in the comfort and welfare of his guests he has so conducted his hotel as to win a large support from the traveling public.

Mrs. Mallory bore the maiden name of Hanna Hopkins. She is a niece of W. T. Hopkins, by whom she was reared. Their marriage was celebrated in 1865, and they now have three living children: William H., Annie and George. Another son, Nobbie, died at the age of six years. Mrs. Mallory is a lady of great force of character, and to her able management and wise counsel Mr. Mallory contributes not a little of his success.

Our subject is an active Mason. In politics he is an ardent Republican, but has never sought or desired the honors or emoluments of public office. In his business career he has met with the success which comes as the reward of earnest purpose and well-laid plans, carefully executed. He has met with many difficulties, but has overcome these by unfaltering industry, and to-day is known as one of the most substantial as well as one of the most valued citizens of Grundy county. The straightforward methods he has always followed commend him to the confidence of his fellow men, and have made him well worthy the trust reposed in him. His many excellencies of character have gained him a large circle of friends, and he well deserves honorable mention in connection with the history of Morris.

MILTON S. DEWEY.

Milton S. Dewey is an enterprising grain merchant of Mazon, where he successfully controls a large and extensive business that brings to him excellent financial returns. He has been the architect of his own fortune and has builded wisely and well, the foundation of his prosperity being indefatigable labor. The spirit of self-help is the source of all genuine worth, and depending upon his own efforts and placing his reliance in the substantial qualities of energy and perseverance, he has steadily worked his way upward.

Mr. Dewey was born in Boonville, Oneida county, New York, June 1, 1855, and is a son of Sylvester H. and Melissa A. (Fisk) Dewey. It is believed that the family is of French lineage, but the line of descent in America is authentic, being easily traced back to Thomas Dewey, the oldest son of Thomas, the founder, who sailed from Sandwich, England, for the New World. For genealogy see sketch of Sylvester H. Dewey.

Sylvester Harvey Dewey, the father of our subject, is a resident of Grundy county and is represented on another page of this work. His son, Milton S., whose name introduces this review, was about four months of

Milton S Dewey

Margaret M Dewey

age when brought by his parents to Illinois in 1855. He obtained his education in the common schools and also attended a select high school in Morris for three winters. He early assisted in the labors of the farm, and began working for himself at the age of sixteen years, renting land from his father, to whom he paid the same rental that any one else would have done. For two years, from 1874 until 1876, he was associated with his father in business in Morris as a dealer in agricultural implements, after which he returned to the farm, renting land in Mazon township, four miles northeast of the village of Mazon, the tract comprising one hundred and sixty acres. During the six years in which he resided upon it he improved it with substantial farm buildings and then came to Mazon, where he embarked in the grain business in connection with his father, Sylvester H. Dewey, the partnership continuing for eight years and four months, at the end of which time he purchased his father's interest. He has since been numbered among the leading grain merchants of this county and has prospered far beyond his expectations, yet his success is the merited reward of his own labor. When he began business the elevator was very small, but his increased trade demanded enlarged facilities, and the present elevator is five times its original capacity, which was fifteen thousand bushels. Its present capacity is eighty thousand, and it is by far the largest elevator in Mazon. Mr. Dewey annually handles from two to three hundred thousand bushels of grain, dealing mostly in corn and oats, and is one of the most extensive buyers in this part of the county. He is also the oldest grain merchant in Mazon, his connection with this branch of business covering a period of fourteen years. He is well known in trade circles and in the farming community, and is a man of irreproachable integrity, very reliable in all his dealings and transactions. His investments have been judiciously made, and in addition to the elevator in Mazon he owns eight hundred acres of land in Sherman county, Nebraska, together with seventy acres in Oneida county, New York, and four hundred acres in Mazon and Wauponsee townships, Grundy county. In his political views Mr. Dewey is a Republican, unfaltering in his advocacy of party principles. He has held the office of justice of the peace for fifteen years, and his decisions are strictly fair and impartial, his judgments being unbiased by fear or favor. He was for eighteen years a member of the school board and has served as its president. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias of Mazon, in which he has held the office of prelate.

On the 27th of February, 1878, in Wauponsee township, Grundy county, Mr. Dewey was united in marriage to Margaret M. Dewey, who was born March 17, 1858, a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Whitlock) Dewey. She is also descended from Thomas Dewey, the original American

emigrant in this country, and to our subject and his wife have been born seven children, namely: Melissa, December 7, 1879; Henry Eugene, September 2, 1882; Mabel, November 8, 1884; Flora May, June 2, 1886; William Arthur, May 30, 1888; Alice Estella, February 21, 1892; and Ernest Adelbert, who was born January 15, 1896, and died on the 7th of January, 1897.

It will be interesting in this connection to note the line of descent from Thomas Dewey to Mrs. Dewey, for we have before traced the line from the same ancestors to our subject. Jedediah Dewey, youngest son of Thomas, the founder, was born December 15, 1647, married Sarah Orton, and died November 20, 1711. Their son, Daniel, was born in March, 1680, and died in 1717. He was married September 17, 1706, to Catherine Beckley, and they had two children, one of whom was Daniel Dewey, Jr., whose birth occurred in 1707. He was married in 1732 to Rebecca Curtis and had five children, including David Dewey, who was born March 16, 1732, and died in August, 1814. He was married in 1755, to Esther Dunham, and they had six children. One of the number was again named Daniel Dewey, and he became the grandfather of Mrs. Milton S. Dewey. Her father was Joseph Dewey, and thus the line of descent is traced down.

Daniel Dewey, her grandfather, was born in 1773 and became a miner, working in iron mines. Although not an enlisted soldier, he participated in the battle of Lake Champlain in the war of 1812 and was always known as a patriotic citizen. He married Lucretia Pangburn and they became the parents of twelve children, namely: Polly, Betsy, Rhoda, Eliza, Amos, Sallie, Moses, Phoebe, Fannie, John, Jane and Joseph. The father of these children died in Washington county, New York, when about seventy years of age. He and his wife and most of their children were members of the Methodist church. She was a daughter of John Pangburn, one of the Revolutionary heroes.

Joseph Dewey, the father of Mrs. Milton S. Dewey, was born in Washington county, New York, September 30, 1825, and died March 5, 1892. He was married January 29, 1852, to Sarah Whitlock, a daughter of William W. Whitlock. She was born in Washington county, New York, January 15, 1835. After their marriage Joseph Dewey and his wife located on a farm in Washington county, New York, but subsequently he sold that property and in 1860 removed to Illinois, taking up his abode in Norman township, Grundy county. After eighteen years he removed to Wauponsee township and purchased eighty acres of land, which had been improved to some extent. There he made a good home and farm, his death occurring there at the age of sixty-seven years. In politics he was a stanch Republican and in religious belief a Methodist. An industrious man of sterling worth, he was highly respected by all who knew him.

His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Whitlock, was a daughter of William and Nancy (Dugan) Whitlock. Her father was born in Washington county, New York, in the town of Day, about 1818, and was of Pennsylvania Dutch lineage. By trade he was a stone-mason, and also followed agricultural pursuits. In his native county he married Nancy Dugan, a daughter of Arthur and Sallie Dugan. Mr. Whitlock worked at his trade of a stone-mason in the town of Day, Washington county, New York, for many years. There his wife died when about sixty-two years of age. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and a woman of many virtues. Mr. Whitlock also belonged to that church. Their children were: Sarah, born January 15, 1835; William J., born June 5, 1837; Jane, born June 25, 1839; and Arthur, born July 4, 1841. After the death of his first wife Mr. Whitlock was again married, Jeanette Gorley being the lady of his choice. She was born in Scotland and when seventeen years of age she came to America, where she engaged in school-teaching. After his second marriage Mr. Whitlock purchased a farm in Washington county, New York, and there made his home until his retirement from active business life, when he took up his abode in Salem, New York. There he died at the age of seventy years. Joseph Dewey and his wife were the parents of the following named: Nancy R., born January 10, 1853; Mary, June 6, 1856; Margaret M., March 14, 1858; William John, April 7, 1860; Annie L., February 17, 1862; Amos Arthur, September 21, 1865; Jennie H., February 6, 1869; Estella, August 22, 1871; and Lizzie, August 18, 1874. All are yet living and all are married with the exception of Estella, who makes her home with her mother. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Dewey became the wife of Delos Wright, and with him is now living in Grundy county. She possesses a remarkable memory and furnished nearly all of the facts for these records of Daniel and Joseph Dewey and of the Whitlock family.

JOSEPH ASHTON.

Joseph Ashton, who passed to his reward February 27, 1897, was for about half a century numbered among the representative citizens of Grundy county. Coming here in pioneer days, he thenceforth was intimately associated with the upbuilding and development of this section of the state, and never failed to do his entire duty as a loyal, patriotic American, upholding the law and good government, and using his influence for the maintenance of excellent schools, churches and all institutions which benefit a community.

His father, John Ashton, was a native of England, and at an early age he was left an orphan, to struggle with life's problems as well as he could. He was bound out to learn the trade of hatter, and followed that calling for some years in the British Isle. At length he determined to seek a home and fortune in the United States, and soon after arriving in Philadelphia he obtained a position as foreman in a large factory where cloth was manufactured. This responsible place he continued to fill acceptably for several years, and in 1850 he came west to Illinois. Locating upon a good farm in Kendall county, he remained there, occupied in the cultivation of the place until his death in 1878. His wife, whose maiden name was Betsy Shaw, had departed this life about a year previously, in 1877.

The birth of Joseph Ashton occurred in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, in 1829, and he was reared in the Quaker City. There he found employment as a weaver in the factory where his father was foreman, and continued industriously engaged in this trade until he was nineteen years of age. In 1851 he concluded to come to Illinois, and for three years after his arrival here he carried on farming in Nettle Creek township, Grundy county. He then purchased a homestead in Wauponsee township, and devoted the remainder of his life to its improvement and cultivation, meeting with success in his laudable ambition. He had no aspirations to publicity and preferred the quiet of the home circle and the society of his own family, though he was friendly and kind to all of his acquaintances and ever ready to lend to them a helping hand. Politically he was a Republican, believing firmly in the superiority of his party. His life was well rounded and complete, his chief ambitions fulfilled and his duties nobly done, when he was called upon to lay aside his burdens. He is survived by his devoted wife, Mrs. Rachel (Hager) Ashton, who was born in Illinois, June 12, 1844, and is making a home for her two sons. Her only daughter, Sarah Levina, is deceased.

William Ashton, elder son of our subject and wife, was born in this county, November 1, 1865, and was reared in the usual vocations of farmers' boys. When he arrived at a suitable age he commenced attending the district school, and later it was his privilege to pursue a three-year course in the Morris Normal. Then, returning to the parental farm, he dutifully gave his time and services to his father, in the care of the homestead. As he was but little more than nineteen years of age at the time of his father's death, unusual responsibilities were necessarily thrust upon him, but he proved equal to the task and has won the approbation of all for the manly way in which he has discharged his duties.

John A. Ashton, the younger son of Joseph and Rachel Ashton, was born December 23, 1870, on the old homestead in Wauponsee township, where he is yet dwelling with his mother and brother. From his youth he

has been accustomed to the routine of farm work, and now he is justly accounted one of the practical and successful agriculturists of the neighborhood. With the exception of one year, 1885, when he lived in the village of Morris in order to attend school, his entire life has been passed at his birthplace. He possesses a good education and is a reliable citizen, highly esteemed by the old friends and acquaintances of a lifetime. In company with his brother he carries on a farm of one hundred and ninety-eight acres, taking great pride in keeping everything in an orderly manner. A modern house, with all of the essential conveniences of this decade, was erected by the family on the place in 1897.

WILLIAM GAY.

The history of Grundy county would be incomplete without the record of this gentleman, who is the oldest resident of Wauponsee township. He was born in Connecticut, April 20, 1820, and is the son of Robert and Julia Ann (Crowell) Gay, both of whom were also natives of the Nutmeg state and were of English origin. The father was a molder by trade and resided on a small farm.

William Gay acquired his education in the public schools of his native state, and at a very early age was left an orphan. When a youth of fifteen he went to Brooklyn to learn the carpenter and joiner's trade, remaining in that city for five years. Subsequently he removed to Orange county, New York, where he followed his chosen vocation for three years and then started westward, eventually arriving at Southport, Wisconsin. He was not pleased with that section of country, however, and returned to Palmyra, Wayne county, New York, where he remained for one season. At the expiration of that period he again came west, this time making his way to Chicago, where he became superintendent of the erection of some large buildings for an extensive manufacturing company. When that task was completed he secured a position as overseer in the carpentering department in the works of Peter W. Gates & Company, where he continued for three years. He next went down the Illinois river for the firm of Munn & Scott, and was engaged in the milling business, which he followed for about three years. When that time had passed he sold out and came direct to Grundy county, in 1854, settling on a farm which formed a part of his present fine homestead. For many years he engaged in the tilling of the soil and transformed his land into richly cultivated fields which yielded to him a golden tribute for the care and labor he bestowed upon them. He was thus actively connected with agricultural interests until 1894, when he retired to private

life, giving his farm over to the management of his son. He also owns some valuable business property in Morris and is accounted one of the substantial citizens of the community, a position he has attained as the direct result of his own well directed efforts.

In 1856 Mr. Gay was united in marriage to Miss Mary Matilda Gulick, a daughter of Adam and Anna (Tecla) Gulick. Her father was a native of Strassburg, Germany, and his wife was born in Bailystock, Poland. Mrs. Gay's birth occurred in Goshen, Orange county, New York, in 1823, and she was educated in the village schools of that town. They have but one child, Willis Russell. Mr. Gay is a stanch Republican in politics, but while taking a deep interest in the success and growth of his party he never sought office. His is an honorable old age, in which he receives the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded those of advanced years. His life has been industrious and upright, and in its evening he can look back over the past without regret.

WILLIS R. GAY.

The only son of William and Matilda Gay, Willis R. Gay was born April 24, 1858, in Wauponsee township, where he has spent his entire life. The district schools near the old homestead afforded him his preliminary educational privileges, which were supplemented by a course in the high school of Morris. On the 30th of September, 1885, he married Miss Eslie Brown, a daughter of Captain Edwin Brown, of Kendall county, Illinois. Their home is blessed with the presence of two children—Mabel Theressa and Charles Willis.

In 1894 Mr. Gay assumed the management of his father's farm, which he has since successfully conducted and the neat appearance of the well tilled fields indicates his industry and his careful supervision. He is also extensively engaged in stock-raising and is also well known throughout the western states as a leading stock-dealer. He and his father own together seven hundred acres of fine land, which is highly improved. Energy is perhaps his most marked characteristic and has been a means of giving him a standing in agricultural circles second to none in Grundy county.

OBADIAH NADEN.

There is something in the spirit of the American government and of the American nation which wins the loyal support of almost all of its adopted

sons. Its freedom from monarchical rule, its advantage for progress and improvement, unhampered by caste, seem to call forth the best efforts of those who come here to seek homes; and, encouraged by the example of many self-reliant and self-made men, they rise by their own labors, becoming faithful and valiant citizens, and often reaching positions of prominence.

There arrived in Grundy county in 1846 a young man destined to win success and gain for himself an honorable name in business circles. He was a native of England, his birth occurring in Staffordshire, four miles from Buckston, June 5, 1829, his parents being Samuel and Martha (Millner) Naden. They had nine sons and three daughters, as follows: Noah, James, John, Samuel, Thomas, Isaac, Henry, Philip, Obadiah, Sarah, Rebecca and Mary.

In 1844 John came to the United States, and, being well pleased with the country and the opportunities it offered, he wrote favorable accounts to his parents, who crossed the Atlantic in 1846, locating in Big Grove township, Kendall county, Illinois. In 1848 another son, Samuel Naden, also became a resident of the United States. The father settled four miles from Lisbon, and there devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, his death occurring in 1848. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1866. In England the entire family worked in a print manufactory. Obadiah entered that factory when only six years of age, and was there employed until his seventeenth year, at which time he accompanied his parents to the United States. He was then capable of doing twenty different kinds of work in the factory, but he never received more than seven shillings per week in compensation for his services, and other laborers in the mill were as poorly paid. It is no wonder, then, that the family sought a home in the new world, where they could earn better wages and where advancement was more certain.

In this country Mr. Naden, of this review, has always followed farming. He began agricultural pursuits for himself by working land on shares, his mother acting as his housekeeper until his marriage in 1856. For four years he cultivated rented land, and during that time was enabled to save one hundred and fifty dollars. He also owned a team and six young colts. With his money he made a partial payment upon a quarter section of fine farming land in Plattville, Kendall county, Illinois. With characteristic energy he began the development of the farm and the task of clearing it of all indebtedness. His energy and economy enabled him soon to do this, and prosperity has steadily attended his efforts, so that his financial resources have increased and he has added to his farm until it now comprises three hundred and eighty acres of rich and valuable land. It is under a high state of cultivation, the well tilled fields yielding to him a golden tribute in return

for the care and labor he bestows upon it. He also has a quarter section of land in Iroquois county, Illinois, and three hundred and twenty acres in Indiana. He has met with some reverses, but his determined purpose has enabled him to overcome all obstacles and work his way steadily upward. On the 14th of August, 1881, a disastrous fire destroyed all of his barns and considerable produce and grain, together with some stock and farm implements, but the following year he erected new buildings, and soon afterward gave his farm over to the management of his sons, since which time he has lived retired in Morris.

In 1856 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Naden and Miss Jane Green, who was born in Liverpool, England, December 24, 1833, and in 1855 came to the United States with her brother, George, who is now a practicing physician of Aurora, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Naden have been born the following children: Samuel J., a farmer of Iowa; Martha, the wife of Omer Smith, of Hoopeston, Illinois; Mary, the wife of Perry A. Johnson; Walter, who died at the age of twelve years; James and Stanley, who are working their father's farm; Lida, the wife of J. W. Challacombe, stenographer and bookkeeper for the Woelfel tannery in Morris; and Burt, at home. The parents are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and enjoy the high regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

In 1868 Mr. Naden visited England, and in 1898, accompanied by his wife, he again crossed the Atlantic to the land of his birth, where they spent many pleasant hours amid the scenes of their childhood and renewing acquaintances of their youth. Mr. Naden has been fortunate in his business affairs, and his success is due to his own energy and not to circumstances. He has labored earnestly and indefatigably, and success withholds not its rewards from those who diligently seek. He is a public-spirited citizen, and in his support of measures for the general good he has shown that he has become a true American in thought and interests.

JOHN KNOX ELY.

There can be no reading more edifying to the younger generation of the residents of any county than truthful accounts of the lives and experiences of the pioneers who planted the seeds of civilization within its limits, and of men of hope and pluck and perseverance who were in the van in the later march of development. It is to record the deeds and virtues of such men that this sketch is prepared; and if it does justice to John Knox Ely, his predecessors and contemporaries, the writer's task will have been fulfilled.

John W. Foley

Lovina J Ely

John Knox Ely, of Mazon, Illinois, one of the representative citizens of Grundy county and a prominent business man and farmer of Mazon township, was born in Oneida county, New York, December 2, 1837, a son of James G. and Rebecca (Knox) Ely. The Ely family is of sterling English stock, its founders in America having been early colonial settlers of New Jersey. John Ely, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of New Jersey and was married in that commonwealth. He settled and lived out his days in the town of Western, Oneida county, New York, where he was a stock farmer and owned a considerable amount of property. He lived to the venerable age of eighty years, was a Democrat in his politics and a prominent man in his community. His children were Henry, David, James G., George, Frank, Elvira, Lydia and Louisa.

James G. Ely, a son of John, was born in New Jersey, September 25, 1807, received a common-school education and became a farmer, and while yet young went with his father to Oneida county, New York, and married there, July 4, 1826, Fanny Hunt, who was born March 12, 1809. Their children were Martha, William, Ann and Harriet. Mr. Ely settled on land which was a part of his father's estate and lived there many years. His wife died July 2, 1835, and he married the second time, January 1, 1837, in Oneida county, New York, Rebecca E. Knox, born near Perth Amboy, New Jersey, May 4, 1807, a daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Karr) Knox. Her father, Joseph Knox, was a planter and slave-owner, but, believing in human liberty in its broadest sense, eventually freed his slaves. John Knox Ely has a silver spoon formerly belonging to the Karr family, marked with the initials S. K., for Samuel Karr, the grandfather of his mother. Joseph Knox and wife were the parents of Nelson, Samuel, Sylvanus, Eliza, Ruth, Rebecca and Mary. James G. Ely, the father of our subject, moved with his family to Illinois in 1844, making the journey by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo and the lakes to Chicago, and thence by teams to Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois. From the early part of May to June 4 was the period he consumed in reaching his destination. He at once bought an improved farm of eighty acres, and died July 3, only a month after his arrival. In politics he was a Democrat. He was an industrious and straightforward man who commanded the highest respect, and he reared an excellent family.

John Knox Ely was only seven years old when he came with his parents to Kendall county. He received his education in the common schools and at Mount Morris Seminary, at Mount Morris, Ogle county, this state, at the latter of which he was duly graduated. He engaged in school-teaching in LaSalle and Grundy counties, being thus employed for several years.

August 12, 1862, at Chicago, he enlisted as a private in the Eighty-

eighth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, to serve three years or during the war, and he served until honorably discharged on account of wounds received in battle at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 20, 1864. He took part in the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Resaca, and he was slightly wounded in the engagement last mentioned. He was also in the Atlanta campaign when the Union troops were under fire four months, and participated in the battles of Buzzards' Roost, Adairsville, New Hope Church, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Lost Mountain and Peach Tree Creek, in the last of which he was struck in the right side by a piece of concussion shell and injured seriously. He was taken to a field hospital, and after two weeks moved to Chattanooga and thence to Nashville and confined in the hospital about two and a half months.

He then went home on a furlough, being incapacitated for arduous duty. He was always an active soldier, always on duty in all the campaigns, marches, battles and skirmishes in which his regiment was engaged, and did his full duty promptly and cheerfully. He was promoted for meritorious services, to be corporal and then duty sergeant and afterward orderly sergeant; and he was one of the men selected for General Rosecrans' regiment to be called The Roll of Honor; but that regiment was never formed. After recovering from his wounds he was detailed to the United States secret service and stationed at Nashville till the close of the war, and after the war he returned to Illinois.

When he was at home on a furlough Mr. Ely married, at Vinton, Iowa, September 5, 1864, Lovina J. Mossman, who was born April 13, 1845, in Mercer county, Ohio, a daughter of William Mossman and Mary nee Thompson. William Mossman was born in Pennsylvania, February 28, 1801, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. In early life he was a school-teacher, particularly skilled in mathematics. Later he became a farmer. He married, in Pennsylvania, Mary Thompson, who was born in Maryland, November 10, 1815, a daughter of Aquila Thompson, of Scotch descent. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mossman lived for a time in Pennsylvania and then moved to Ohio, where Mr. Mossman was a farmer. About 1845 they moved to Grundy county, Illinois, settling in Nettle Creek township, where Mr. Mossman bought an improved farm of eighty acres, upon which they lived until 1855, when he went to Benton county, Iowa, and bought prairie land, but settled in the town of Urbana. He died in Vinton, Iowa, aged about eighty-seven years. He was a man of excellent mind and well educated, and held town offices so creditably that his judgment was respected by the people. He was an old-line Whig and an Abolitionist, and was one of the founders of the Republican party in Benton county, Iowa, and afterward acted and voted with that party as long as he lived. He was a member of

the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was a class-leader for many years. His children were Francis A., James C., George W., William H., Sarah E., Mary V., Lovina J., Aquila P., David C., Winfield W. and Ella. Mr. Mossman had four sons in the civil war,—Francis, George, William and Aquila. Francis and George were in the Thirty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and Francis veteranized, serving four years, and was in many battles. George also veteranized and saw four years of service and was mustered out a major, having been promoted from the rank of corporal. William was a private in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served about one year, when he was honorably discharged, on account of sickness, and died soon afterward. Aquila P. was in the Eighth Regiment of the Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he enlisted and served eighteen months, until the regiment was discharged.

After his marriage John Knox Ely continued to reside in Nettle Creek township, Grundy county, on land which he and his mother had entered in 1847, and where he lived until he was twenty-five years old. After his return from the war he lived there two years, and in 1868 he moved upon two hundred acres of improved land, which he bought in the same township. He resided there until 1876, and then moved to Mazon township and settled on his present property, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres of fine land. This farm he greatly improved. His children are: Rubie Maude, born February 8, 1867; Lena Grace, October 21, 1868; Mary Rebecca, June 18, 1870; Nellie Virginia, February 23, 1872; John Maurice, January 2, 1874; William Ray, May 29, 1879; and Hamlin Mossman, November 11, 1882,—all born in Grundy county. Parents and children are all members of the Congregational church, in which body Mr. Ely has held the offices of church trustee and treasurer.

Politically Mr. Ely is a Republican, and, being an honored citizen of his township, he has from time to time held all the township offices, excepting that of road commissioner. He was twice elected to the general assembly of Illinois by heavy majorities, and he filled the responsible position of representative of the people with great credit to himself and satisfactorily to his constituents. He is a Mason of Orient Chapter, No. 46, R. A. M., and of Blaney Commandery, No. 5, K. T., of Morris, Illinois. He and Mrs. Ely are both members of the Eastern Star Chapter, of which she is the chaplain. The children of John Knox and Lovina (Mossman) Ely are all well trained intellectually, each having enjoyed ample opportunities for higher education.

In conclusion and in general we can say that Mr. Ely is a man of broad and independent views and a fearless advocate of what he believes to be

right. He is very popular and justly noted for his stanch honesty of character. His family is one of the representative families of the county.

AMOS B. CALDWELL.

More than two-score years have passed since A. B. Caldwell cast in his lot with the people of Illinois, and though he has met with serious reverses at times he has never regretted his choice of a home. Both he and his forefathers have been pioneers, the family having progressed westward as the country became thickly settled, and their labors have accrued more to those taking their places than to their individual selves. They have manfully stood for their country and community, performing disinterested acts and contributing liberally of their time and means for the general welfare.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, William Caldwell, was a native of Pennsylvania. He removed to Ohio in 1808, and, buying land of the government, improved the property, and died there in 1815. He was survived by his wife, whose death took place in 1822. His son John, the father of A. B. Caldwell, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, in the opening year of the century. He was consequently a lad of eight years when his father removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, and in that portion of the Buckeye state he passed the remainder of his life. He raised large quantities of wheat upon his farm, and, after having it ground, he shipped it by the river route to New Orleans. As he had learned the trade of cooper, he manufactured his own barrels, and thus his profits were not inconsiderable. He died at the ripe age of eighty-four years, in 1884, respected and loved by a large circle of friends. The famous John C. Calhoun was a protege of the Caldwell family. The mother of A. B. Caldwell was Elizabeth Monnett in her girlhood, her father being Isaac Monnett, of German extraction.

The birth of the gentleman whose name heads this sketch took place in Pickaway county, Ohio, December 17, 1833. Reared on his father's farm, he continued to make his home there until he reached his twenty-fourth year, when he came to this state. Locating upon a farm in Iroquois county, he industriously tilled and improved the place until it became one of the finest in that section. He was the first person in the township to use tile for draining the land, and from a wilderness he saw the locality developed into a rich and productive region. In 1886 he went to California, on account of the failing health of his wife, and for seven years he dwelt with his family in that beautiful land of sunshine and flowers. At length he returned to his birthplace, and, having attended to the settling of his father's estate

and remaining there, altogether, a year and a half, he came back to Illinois. Since that time he has lived in the town of Seneca, though some of his business interests are elsewhere in the county. He owns and operates a grain elevator in Norman township, and, in addition to this, he carries on a small grocery and is the postmaster at Langham. In 1898 he had the misfortune to lose his elevator, which was entirely destroyed by fire, but he immediately commenced the building of another one, much more substantial and modern than the first. Business enterprise and wisely directed endeavor have been the means of his success, as well as the absolute integrity and fairness which have characterized his dealings at all times. Education has found a sincere champion in him, and in his early manhood he taught school in winter, while he engaged in farming during the summer season. Politically he uses his ballot in favor of the Republican party.

The first marriage of Mr. Caldwell was solemnized in 1859, Miss Margaret Pineo becoming his bride. She was a daughter of George Pineo, of Illinois, and by her marriage she was the mother of one child, Eva, now the wife of Charles G. Watkins, of Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Caldwell died in 1863, and three years later our subject wedded Miss Lovenia Holmes, the daughter of the Rev. Jacob M. Holmes, of Marion, Ohio. Their eldest-born, Mamie, is deceased; Nellie is the wife of Dr. J. Lincoln Rogers, of Los Angeles, California; Albertus died when in his twentieth year, in California; Fred is now a student in the Northwestern University; and Charlie died at the age of three years. The wife and mother was summoned to the better land in 1887.

The lady who now bears the name of our subject was united to him in wedlock, October 24, 1895. Her maiden name was Miss Lydia A. George, and at the time of her marriage she was a teacher in the high schools of Circleville, Ohio, where she had been engaged in educational work for about a quarter of a century. Both Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are active workers in religious and benevolent enterprises.

HENRY WATERS.

To write of the life of Henry Waters is, necessarily, to write history, for he is descended from those who made history in Grundy county and elsewhere and has had much to do with the making of the history of Mazon township during the last third of a century.

Henry Waters, one of the most respected citizens and substantial farmers of Mazon township, Grundy county, Illinois, was born on his father's farm in Mazon township, April 13, 1849, a son of William and Betheusia

(Booth) Waters. He gained a common-school education and by hard work and study prepared himself for the career of a farmer. December 28, 1868, at Morris, Illinois, he married Terressa H. Booth, born in Bazetta township, Trumbull county, Ohio, November 19, 1839, a daughter of Moses and Myra (Hubble) Booth.

Moses Booth was born in Connecticut, was educated in the public schools and became a farmer. When a young man he settled in Trumbull county, where he met and won for his wife Miss Myra Hubble, who had come to that county from New Haven, Connecticut. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Booth settled in Trumbull county, Ohio, on a farm of eighty acres of land cleared from the woods, and he became one of the pioneer farmers of that county. They were both members of the Presbyterian church. Their children were George W., and Emma, who became the wife of Robert Briscoe. Mr. Booth died and Mrs. Booth married for her second husband Elson Reed, to whom she bore no children. Mrs. Reed came to Illinois when well advanced in years and died in Braceville, Grundy county, at the home of her son, George W. Mr. Booth was a widower when he met Miss Hubble, and by his previous marriage, to a Miss Judson, had children named Truman, Samuel, Moses, Laura, Eliza, and another daughter who married a Mr. Long.

The lady who became Mrs. Henry Waters came to Illinois when she was fourteen years of age with a relative, Mrs. Catherine Trumbo, and lived two years in LaSalle county, near Ottawa. She then returned to Ohio, but came again to Illinois with the same relative four years later and located at Morris, where she met and married Mr. Waters. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Waters settled on a part of the old Waters homestead, which is included in the farm of one hundred and twenty acres on which they now live. To Mr. and Mrs. Waters children named as follows have been born, in the order here indicated: Emma M., born January 24, 1871; Ida Allie, born October 18, 1876; Alta May, born November 16, 1878, died September 7, 1880; and Rosa Mabel, born April 5, 1881; Emma was married September 12, 1888, to Clayton H. Nichols, a farmer of Mount Auburn, Iowa; they have five children—Ira M., Clarence H., Frank, Albert and Elsie; Ida Allie was married October 21, 1896, to Ray Woods, a farmer of Good Farm township, Grundy county, and they have one child, named Vietta Pearl. Mrs. Waters is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a consistent example of Christian character.

In politics Mr. Waters is a stanch Republican. He is a public-spirited citizen, alive to every question affecting the general welfare, and is a friend of education who has proved his devotion by twenty-five years' service as a member of the school board. His daughter, Emma, received a good edu-

cation and was for a time a school-teacher. Ida Allie attended high school at Morris and taught school in Mazon township five years. Rosa Mabel is attending the Gardner high school and is fitting herself to teach. The entire family is one of the most respected in Mazon township. Mr. Waters is well known for his integrity, his industry and his friendly and helpful disposition. He is an entirely self-made man, having accumulated his property by his own unaided exertions. He descends from the pioneer stock of Grundy county, his father having been one of the first settlers, and is, in the best sense, a representative of the class which has given to Illinois her best and most useful citizens.

SAMUEL M. UNDERWOOD.

One of the most popular business houses in Morris is the Revolution grocery, of which this gentleman is the proprietor. He is a self-made man who, without any extraordinary family or pecuniary assistance at the commencement of life, has battled earnestly and energetically, and by indomitable courage and integrity has achieved both character and a competence. His success is certainly well merited and numbers him among the substantial citizens of the community.

In Chautauqua county, New York, Samuel M. Underwood was born, June 25, 1849, his parents being Samuel N. and Augusta (Whitney) Underwood, the former a native of the Empire state and the latter of Vermont. Both parents were of English lineage and their marriage was celebrated in New York, where they resided until 1859, when they came to Illinois, locating in Gardner. His father was a hotel manager of that place and remained in the business there for many years, but at length removed to Kankakee county, Illinois, where his last days were spent. He died in 1884, after which his widow made her home with our subject until called to her final rest in 1894. This worthy couple were the parents of two children: Charles C., now a general merchant of Gardner, and Samuel M. In the state of his nativity Mr. Underwood, of this review, spent the first ten years of his life and then accompanied his parents to Grundy county. His preliminary education, acquired in the schools of Gardner, was supplemented by a two-years' course in Eureka College. After leaving that institution he accepted a clerical position in a general store in Pontiac, which was the beginning of a successful connection with mercantile interests.

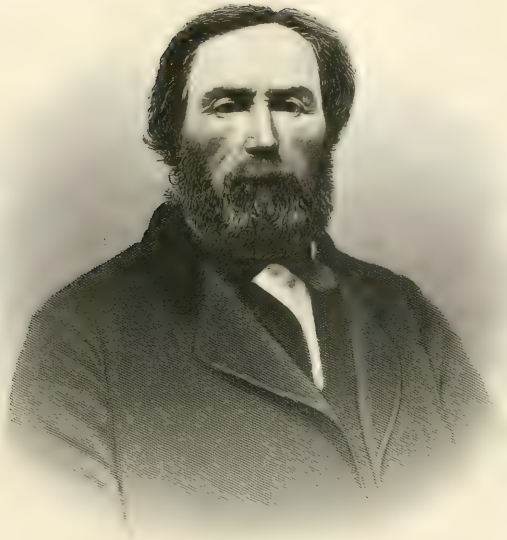
For five years he held that position, during which time he became familiar with business methods and then returned to Gardner, where he occupied a position as salesman for a short time and then became the proprietor

of the old hotel which his father had conducted for many years. Not long afterward, however, he disposed of that property and removed to Kansas, where he spent two years devoting his time to farming and to traveling as the representative of a nursery firm. Subsequently he was engaged in clerking for five years for A. F. Mallory, a merchant of Morris, and in 1883 he purchased a grocery stock and established the well known Revolution grocery and provision store of Morris. In this line of business he has been very successful, having a well equipped store and enjoying a large and constantly increasing patronage. His efforts, however, have not been confined alone to this line, for he was one of the organizers of the Morris Floral Company, which was formed in 1893, and re-organized and incorporated in 1897, with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars. Of this company Mr. Underwood was president and treasurer. The Morris Floral Company is looked upon with pride by the citizens of the county seat. Its plant, situated one and a half miles east of the city, is a model in its line and its products are shipped to many sections of the United States and Canada. The business has constantly grown and yields gratifying results to its organizers.

Mr. Underwood is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of the American Order of United Workmen, and of the Patriarchal Circle. Whatever success he has attained in life is the direct result of his own enterprise and capable management. He enjoys an excellent reputation as a business man and through diligence and perseverance he has steadily advanced in the fields of commerce till he now occupies a prominent position among the leading representatives of the business interests in Morris.

SAMUEL HOGE.

The name of Hoge is so inseparably connected with the history of Grundy county that this work would be incomplete without the record of its representatives, and he whose name heads this sketch was one of the honored pioneers and for many years a most prominent citizen of the community. He came to the county when its lands were wild and uncultivated and when the work of progress and improvement had scarcely been begun. A native of Fauquier county, Virginia, he was born October 28, 1805, and died in Grundy county, Illinois, March 13, 1881. In early colonial days the family was founded in America, its first representative in this country being William Hoge, who came from Scotland during the seventeenth century and took up his residence in Pennsylvania. The name has since been variously spelled as Hog, Hogg, Hoag, Hogue and Hoge. William Hoge



Samuel Hoge

married Barbara Hume, a relative of the celebrated historian of that name. Their son William was the first of the name to become identified with the Society of Friends. In 1754 he removed from Pennsylvania to Virginia, and there reared his seven children, namely: Solomon, James, William, Joseph, George, Zebulon and Nancy. Of these, Solomon was twice married and was the father of eighteen children. He first wedded Ann Rollins and to them were born Sarah, Joseph, David (who died in infancy), Solomon, David (the second of the name), Ann, Isaac, Mary, Hannah, Jane and Rebecca. For his second wife the father chose Mary Nicols, and their children were: Lydia, William, Joshua, George, Margery, Jesse and Amy. Of this family Joshua Hoge was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, February 8, 1779, and died April 25, 1854. He married Mary Poole, by whom he had ten children: William, Rebecca, Samuel, Amy, Solomon, Mary, Isaac Stanley Singleton, Lucinda, Ann and Amanda. The last named is the only survivor of this family.

Samuel Hoge, who was a member of this family and who is the immediate subject of this review, spent his early youth in the place of his nativity and worked on the old homestead farm until he had attained his majority, when his father gave him one thousand dollars, and with that amount he started west in company with his brother-in-law, Hendley Greggs. They went to Belmont county, Ohio, where they engaged in merchandising, Mr. Hoge continuing in the store until the fall of 1834, when he sold his interest to Mr. Greggs, and came to Grundy county, Illinois, where his brother William had located some time previously. He brought with him a capital of two thousand dollars, which he invested in government land, his first purchase being a quarter section in the Illinois river valley, about three miles west of Morris. He erected thereon a log cabin and began life in true pioneer style. Soon afterward he entered a section of land at the head of the timber tract on Nettle creek, west of his brother William's farm. For five years he made his home in William's family, but on the 23d of August, 1839, he married Matilda, daughter of Abram Holderman, Sr., and began housekeeping in a rather large and respectable hewed log house near Morris, which was used for a residence for more than forty years, and served as a stopping place for many travelers between Ottawa and Chicago.

Erecting a better home on the land on Nettle creek, Mr. Hoge removed to that place in 1840 and entered upon a useful and active career as an agriculturist. He was a man of robust health, strong and rugged, and possessed sound judgment and excellent tact. He was very persevering and his habits in life were exceptionally pure. His earnest and indefatigable labors brought to him success, and in his undertakings he prospered, accumulating a handsome property. He never sold a foot of his land, but added to it from time

to time as his financial resources increased, until he was the owner of nearly six thousand acres. At the death of her father his wife became the owner of five hundred and sixty acres, and by inheritance from her brother Dyson received two hundred and seventy-five acres. At his death Mr. Hoge left to his family a very valuable estate, and, more than that, the priceless heritage of an untarnished name.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hoge were born fifteen children, of whom the following grew to years of maturity: Hendley; Charlotte; Jane; Abram, who died in the Union army during the civil war; Joshua and Isaac, twins; George, Lina M., Charles C. and Landy S. The mother of these children was called to her final rest February 14, 1898, having survived her husband about seventeen years. They were laid to rest in a private cemetery upon their farm, where many of their relatives have been interred. They were people of the highest respectability, who enjoyed the confidence and esteem of their friends in an unlimited degree. Throughout the period of its pioneer development Mr. Hoge was connected with Grundy county, and ever bore his part in the work of advancement and upbuilding. His death was a loss to the community, but his memory is enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him.

CHARLES W. JOHNSON.

Charles W. Johnson, the sheriff of Grundy county, is a native of Morris, the town in which he lives, and dates his birth December 19, 1855. His parents, Frederick and Emily E. (McCullough) Johnson, were natives respectively of Delaware county, New York, and Erie county, Pennsylvania, and through them Charles W. traces his origin to four different nationalities, his father being of German and Scotch descent and his mother of Welsh and Irish. Frederick Johnson and his wife were married in Pennsylvania. From that state they came west to Illinois and for three years resided in Kendall county. At the end of that time, in 1844, they came to Grundy county and located in Morris. Mr. Johnson was actively identified with the early history of this place. He helped to build the canal and railroad here, and was for a time a captain on the canal. For some time he ran a dray line and was superintendent of streets. His death occurred in 1883, and his wife died a year later. In their family were eight children, of whom five are now living, among them Charles W.

Charles W. Johnson received his education in the public schools of his native town. For some time he was interested in the same line of business in which his father was engaged, namely, draying and superintending of streets, and for two years he conducted a restaurant in Iowa. Severing his

connection with the restaurant business, he returned to Morris and has lived here ever since. For twenty-six years he has been a member of the Morris fire department. He was deputy sheriff a year and a half, and in November, 1898, was elected on the Republican ticket to the office of sheriff, which he has since filled, showing himself a capable and efficient officer.

Mr. Johnson was married June 13, 1875, in Gardner, Illinois, to Miss Kittie C. Waters, daughter of James Waters, an old settler of the county, now deceased. They have five children, viz.: Stella M., Jessie Belle, Hazel Dell, George C. and Alton E. Fraternally Mr. Johnson is identified with the I. O. O. F.

GEORGE M. BUCKLIN.

George M. Bucklin, one of the enterprising publishers of The Sentinel, Morris, Illinois, is a native of this state, having been born in Will county, October 8, 1859. He lived in Kankakee, Illinois, until he was ten years old and at that time his parents moved to Michigan and settled in Flowerfield, St. Joseph county. He was reared and educated in Michigan and remained there until March, 1892, when he went to Nebraska. In the winter of 1895-6 he returned to Illinois and entered the employ of Bucklin & Son, publishers of the daily and weekly Sentinel. October 1, 1896, in company with A. H. Hilliker, he was placed in charge of the paper, which they have since operated, having some time since purchased the plant. Both being enterprising men, up-to-date in methods of journalism and with plenty of pluck and push, they are meeting with deserved success.

Mr. Bucklin is a man of family. He was first married in Michigan, March 27, 1881, to Miss Anna L. Hoover, who died January 14, 1892, leaving two children—Ora E. and Anna G. June 21, 1899, Mr. Bucklin married for his present wife Miss Alice R. Turner, of Morris.

ALBION H. HILLIKER.

The subject of this sketch, Albion H. Hilliker, one of the promising young men of his town, is a member of the firm of Bucklin & Hilliker, publishers of The Sentinel, a daily and weekly newspaper issued at Morris, Illinois. He has been identified with a printing-office since his early boyhood and has occupied his present position as one of the publishers of the above named paper for two years.

Mr. Hilliker was born in Kankakee, Illinois, January 10, 1870, and

received his education in the schools of that place, passing through the various school grades up to and including the tenth year, each year obtaining high averages in his studies. During the first four years of his school life he was neither absent nor tardy, and the record of his fifth year was broken only by a three weeks' illness. Naturally of a quiet and steady disposition and with the influence of a Christian mother, he formed correct habits that have contributed to his present success. At an early age he became a member of the Christian church. He learned the printer's trade while yet a boy. His first knowledge of this trade he picked up in an office owned by the father of one of his schoolmates. He held good positions in all of the Kankakee offices, remaining in his native town until December 5, 1895, when he came to Morris to occupy the position of foreman at the Sentinel office. September 1, 1897, he, in company with G. M. Bucklin, took charge of the plant and on June 1, 1899, they purchased it of S. D. Bucklin. Under the present management the paper has increased in circulation and has otherwise prospered.

On Wednesday, October 25, 1899, Mr. Hilliker was united in marriage to Miss Bertha M. Baum, daughter of the late Henry Baum, Sr., of Morris.

CHARLES B. MOORE.

Charles B. Moore, a member of the Morris Lumber Company, of Morris, Illinois, has been engaged in his present line of business for the past twelve years, and since 1894 has been a resident of Morris.

Mr. Moore is a native of Illinois, born in Rock Island, June 2, 1859, a son of Daniel G. and Maria M. (Weiser) Moore. Daniel G. Moore was a native of Ohio, and his wife of Pennsylvania. They came west with their respective families when quite young and were reared and married at Rock Island. When their son, Charles B., was a year old they removed to a farm in Bureau county, Illinois, and lived there until he was twelve, their next move being to the town of Sheffield, Illinois, where the parents lived for twenty years. They are now residents of Iowa.

Charles B. spent the most of his school-boy days in Sheffield, and is a graduate of the high school at that place, with which institution he was subsequently connected as teacher. After finishing his high-school course, he was for three years employed as a teacher in the grammar school of Sheffield, one year as assistant principal in the high school and three years as principal. In June, 1887, he went to Nebraska and located at Arcadia, where he turned his attention to the lumber business, a business with which he has since been connected. He spent seven years in Nebraska, at various

points, and from there in 1894 returned to Illinois and took up his abode in Morris. Here he entered into a partnership with J. H. Pattison, with whom he was associated until December, 1897, when Mr. Pattison sold out to Mr. Moore and Mr. Fred L. Stephen, who constitute the Morris Lumber Company, and who are doing a prosperous business.

Mr. Moore was married in Sheffield, in 1884, to Miss Annie L. Howard, and they have an interesting family of three little daughters. Mr. Moore harmonizes with the Republican party and maintains fraternal relations with the Knights of Pythias and Knights of the Globe.

WILLIAM R. ALLAN.

There is probably no better indication of the enterprise and business interests of a town than its hotels, and the Carson House, of which Mr. Allan is proprietor, is representative of the enterprising spirit which dominates Morris. This is one of the best hotels in central Illinois, receiving from the public a liberal and well merited patronage. Its proprietor is a genial, courteous gentleman who commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact. He was born in Scotland, June 16, 1848, in Newton Grange, in the county of Edinburg, his parents being David and Elizabeth (Telfert) Allan, also natives of that land. In 1879 they crossed the Atlantic to the United States, spending their last days in Morris. They had four sons and two daughters.

In the public schools William R. Allan obtained his education, but his advantages were very meager, as he began to earn his own living at the early age of seven years. Extensive reading, however, together with wide experience in the practical affairs of life, has made him a well informed man. At the age of seven he began working in the mines of Scotland and was largely employed in that division of labor till twenty-two years of age, when, in 1870, he sailed for America, believing that he might benefit his financial condition in a land where ambition and energy are not fettered by caste or class. Landing in New York, he came at once to Morris and for a year was engaged in coal-mining. On the expiration of that period he joined his eldest brother, David Allan, in leasing mines at Morris, operating the same for three years. He was then engaged in merchandising for twelve consecutive years, and on the expiration of that period carried on farming for two years in Iroquois county, Illinois. Subsequently he removed to Ottawa, where he conducted a restaurant for about seven months, and in 1888 he came to Morris, where he assumed the management of the Carson House. A contemporary publication has said: "The Carson House enjoys the repu-

tation of being one of the best hotels in this section of the country. Everything from cellar to attic is clean, cozy and homelike. The rooms are large and comfortable and you could not ask for any better accommodation in any city than you get at this hotel, the tables being supplied with each and every delicacy that the mind of an expert 'chef' can devise, and served by a corps of polite and attentive waiters. For more than eleven years Mr. Allan has been its proprietor and is well known to the traveling public. He is very popular among traveling salesmen and has won many friends among that class of business men."

On the 22d of September, 1875, Mr. Allan was united in marriage to Miss Janet B. Patrick, a native of Maryland, and of Scotch parentage. They have five children: Thomas A. N., David Alexander, William R., Lillie J. and Roy Carson. Mr. Allan is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also a very prominent Mason, taking the initiatory degrees in 1878, when on a visit to his old home in Scotland. A year later he joined Cedar Lodge, No. 124, F. & A. M., of Morris, and has since taken the Royal Arch and Knight Templar degrees, belongs to Orient Chapter, No. 31, R. A. M., and Blaney Commandery, No. 5, K. T. He has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish rite in Oriental Consistory, is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine and belongs to Laurel Chapter, No. 145, O. E. S. A worthy exemplar of this ancient craft, his life is in perfect harmony with its humane and fraternal teachings. His wife is also a member of the Eastern Star. His political support is given to the Republican party, but he has neither time nor inclination for public office, preferring to devote his energies to the conduct of the Carson House, which he has made one of the most popular hostelries in this section of the state. He certainly deserves great credit, for at the tender age of seven years he started out in life for himself. The difficulties and obstacles impeded his progress, but he has overcome these by determined purpose, steadily working his way upward to a position of affluence.

JOHN M. VANDERPOOL.

Forty-two years have passed since this esteemed citizen of Grundy county came to this section of Illinois, and during the long interval he has watched the progress and development which has placed this locality upon a par with the other counties in the great commonwealth. During the greater part of the time he has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, and by close application to business and untiring energy has won a handsome competence. His life has been a quiet and unassuming one, yet he be-

longs to that class of reliable citizens who are true to their duty to themselves, to their neighbors and to their country, and it is such men who form the bulwarks of the Union.

Mr. Vanderpool is a native of the Empire state, his birth occurring in Rochester, New York, July 18, 1824. His parents were William and Isabella (Johnson) Vanderpool, and his grandparents were John and ———— Vanderpool, all natives of New York. His grandfather was of Holland descent, and was born in the city of Albany in the eighteenth century. Throughout his life he carried on agricultural pursuits, and also maintained his residence in the state of his nativity. His children were Abraham, Charles, Henry, Margaret, Peggy, Katie and Polly, and the eldest died at the age of ninety-nine years.

William Vanderpool, the father of our subject, was reared on the old family homestead in New York, and in early life learned the shoemaker's trade. In accordance with the customs of those times he would travel from house to house through the country making shoes for the inmates of the various homes and doing such repair work in his line as was necessary. He followed his chosen vocation until his removal to Wisconsin, when he located upon a farm, which he made his home until his death. His wife was of English lineage. She died in 1826, and later he married Jemimah Buenscoat. The children of the first union were Isabella, now deceased; Elizabeth, who is living in Wisconsin; John M.; and Mary, who also has passed away. By the second marriage were born five children—George, Abraham, and Harriet, who are living in Wisconsin; William, deceased; and Gertrude, who also makes her home in the Badger state. John M. Vanderpool spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farmer lads of that period. At a very early age he began working by the day and was thus employed until eighteen years of age, when he learned the trade of carriage-smith, following that pursuit for fourteen years. He spent eight years in Vermont, as a general blacksmith, and in 1857 came to Illinois, locating on a farm in Grundy county. He followed his trade, however, until 1859, when he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, being closely and actively identified with the farming interests of the county until 1895, when he put aside all business cares and retired to private life. He is now living in Norman township, Grundy county, and is the owner of three hundred and five acres of the richest land of central Illinois. The greater part of it is under a high state of cultivation, and the rental therefrom brings to him a good income.

Mr. Vanderpool has been twice married. In 1851 he wedded Mrs. Phean (Brooks) Lazier, and to them was born a daughter, who was named Frances Anna. The mother died in 1854, and in 1856 Mr. Vanderpool

wedded Maria Rockwood, a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Colvin) Rockwood, natives of Vermont. Their children are Frances Anna, wife of Henry Winsor, a resident of Vienna township, Grundy county; Herbert M., who married Cora Hull and is living in Norman township; Wilber W., who married Anna Smith and resides in Wauponsee township; and George R., who married Jennie Davis and is living in the same township.

Mr. Vanderpool is the only Prohibitionist residing in Norman township, yet is a true and loyal advocate of his party. The cause of temperance has long found in him a stanch supporter, and believing the question of the liquor traffic to be one of the most important issues before the people he votes for the party which advocates its abolishment. He and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are genial, kindly people who have the warm regard of a large circle of friends. Mr. Vanderpool has been successful in his business endeavors, and the prosperity which he has gained is well merited, for it comes as the result of activity in business and the careful direction of his affairs. Although now well advanced in years, few would suppose that he has passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey, for he possesses the vigor of one much younger, and takes an interest in the events of to-day usually found in a man in his prime.

JOHN ANTIS, M. D.

The pioneer physician of any county, the first physician to locate permanently within its limits, and who practiced medicine among the original pioneers, riding horseback over the prairies and visiting the sick in the rude cabins of the early settlers, is an important figure in local history. Dr. Antis, one of the best-known early settlers in Grundy county, was born in Montgomery county, New York, March 17, 1817, a son of John I. and Catherine (Durkey) Antis. The Antis family was of the old Holland-Dutch stock which settled New York. The grandfather of Dr. Antis was John Antis, who spoke the language of his native Holland. He was a farmer and landholder, and a soldier in our Revolutionary war. His children were John I., Margaret, Henry, James and Conrad. Mr. Antis died at an advanced age in New York state.

John I. Antis, the father of the immediate subject of this sketch, was born in New York state and married in Montgomery county, New York, to Catherine Durkey, of New England ancestry. Mr. Antis was a blacksmith by trade, of the town of Root, Montgomery county, New York, and there he passed his active life; and in his old age he came to Morris, Illinois, to live with his son, Dr. Antis, and here both he and his wife died. In politics

John Antis M.D.

he was a Democrat, and in every relation of his life he showed himself an industrious and upright citizen and won universal respect.

Dr. Antis received a good common-school education, studied medicine with Dr. Amos Reed as preceptor at Root, Montgomery county, New York, and gained the degree of Medical Doctor at a medical college at Fairfield, Herkimer county, same state. Dr. Antis began the practice of medicine at North Brookfield, Madison county, New York, where he remained three years. He then practiced his profession three years in Allegany county, that state. In 1845 he came to Morris, Illinois, and resumed the practice of medicine in the then pioneer settlement, where no physician had located permanently before him, though one or two doctors from Indiana had tarried there briefly. The entire community had only just begun to develop and the few scattered settlements clustered about the groves and water courses. The prairie lands were wild, wet and unbroken, and few people believed that they would ever be settled. The wolves were numerous and could be heard howling at any time of night and large herds of deer wandered at will over the prairies. While the pioneers were a hardy race of people, there was a great deal of sickness in this vicinity, malaria being the principal cause of disease. There were no supplies of medicine to be obtained at Morris, and Dr. Antis has traveled to Ottawa and Joliet, making the long, lonely journey on horseback to procure medicines, especially quinine, for which he paid frequently seven dollars per ounce. He had a large practice and for a long time was the only physician at Morris, and he was known among the pioneers far and wide. There were no roads across the prairies in those days and in a wet season the mud was something terrible. There being no fences, the Doctor rode across the prairies on horseback and often found the sloughs almost impassable.

Dr. Antis married Nancy A. Sweet, of North Brookfield, Madison county, New York. She was a daughter of Samuel G. Sweet, and her father was a well-to-do farmer. His children were Mary, Nancy, Phillip, John, Jeremy and Benjamin. Mr. Sweet died an old man, at North Brookfield, New York. The Doctor came alone to Morris, in the spring of 1845, and his wife came out during the summer of that year. Their children were Eudora A. and Mary. Mrs. Antis, a woman of many virtues, lived to be seventy-two years of age, and died on their home farm in Mazon township, in 1889. The Doctor practiced medicine for many years, and was the best known among the pioneer physicians of the county. In the early days, about 1848, a serious accident occurred to Charles Huston. In pulling his gun out of a sled in which he was traveling he discharged the gun and the charge of buckshot passed through his arm above the elbow, shattering and tearing away the bone and solid flesh for nearly two inches and making

a large hole in the arm. It was a terrible wound. At that time the Doctor had no regular case of surgical instruments and to this fact is probably due the salvation of the arm, as, had he been provided with the facilities, the Doctor would have amputated it according to the usual practice in similar cases. It was with many misgivings and greatly against his judgment that he set to work to try to heal the wound and save the arm; but by skillful and careful treatment through several weeks the wound was entirely healed and the arm saved, and it proved to be for Mr. Huston a good and serviceable arm which he could manage almost as well as before the injury, and continued to do so until his death a few years since. In 1850 Dr. Antis bought his present farm in Mazon township, then consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. He has added to it and now owns one of the finest farms in the township, consisting of two hundred and forty acres of fine land. After the civil war he moved to his farm and has since made it his home.

The Doctor was one of the early gold-seekers to California, crossing the great plains in 1849 and mining for gold at Trinity for two years. In politics he is a stanch Democrat. He is an honored citizen of the county and has held the office of mayor of Morris several times and has been supervisor of his township. A man of broad mind, a clear thinker, of independent views and strong character, he has manifested much determination, and, like most pioneers, he is noted for his sturdy honesty. He has an iron constitution, and at eighty-two years of age he is a strong, hearty and well-preserved man.

AUSTIN E. PALMER, M. D.

One of the successful medical practitioners of Morris is Dr. A. E. Palmer, who was born in Wyoming county, New York, November 9, 1846. He is a son of Elisha and Eliza (Miner) Palmer, both of whom were natives of Stonington, Connecticut, and were representatives of old New England families. Walter Palmer, a gentleman of English birth, was the progenitor of the family in America.

The Doctor spent his boyhood days in the Empire state and assisted in the labors of the home farm until nineteen years of age; but, not desiring to follow the plow throughout his entire life, he determined to engage in the practice of medicine. He completed his education in Middlebury Academy, where he was graduated in 1866. He then entered Bellevue Medical College and on the completion of a thorough course was graduated in that institution in 1869. He at once came to Grundy county, Illinois, and for a few months made his home in Braceville, after which he spent six years in Mazon. In 1876 he came to Morris, where for almost a quarter of a century

he has engaged in the practice of medicine, meeting with excellent success. He is a close student and has carried his investigations beyond those of the average practitioner. His rare skill and ability have gained him a liberal patronage and won him prestige as a member of the medical fraternity. He is now a representative of the LaSalle County and Illinois State Medical Societies, and the American Medical Association.

In 1871 Dr. Palmer was united in marriage to Eva M. Isham, a daughter of Edward Isham, one of the early settlers of Mazon township, Grundy county. Three children have been born to them: Frank, who is a graduate of the Chicago Medical College and is now practicing in Gardner, Illinois; Jessie and Louise. The Doctor is a Knight Templar Mason, and is a stalwart Republican in politics, being recognized as one of the leaders of the party in his county. He served for four years as mayor of Morris and his administration was beneficial and progressive, for he advocated all measures calculated to improve the city and advance its material welfare. While he was serving as mayor the Morris water-works were constructed, the undertaking receiving the Doctor's earnest support. He gives his aid and co-operation to all movements calculated to prove a public benefit and is accounted one of the representative men of Morris.

JAMES B. DAWSON.

This gentleman is accounted one of the successful merchants of Morris, as the elements necessary to a successful business career are numbered among his leading characteristics. He is wide-awake, energetic and diligent, and above all he is reliable in all his trade transactions.

Mr. Dawson was born in Scotland, December 26, 1850, and on the paternal side is of Irish lineage, while on the maternal side he is of Scotch descent. His parents were John and Agnes (Stewart) Dawson, and their children were William, Agnes, John and Margaret, all now deceased; Fannie; Mary; Charlotte; Charles, deceased; and James B. The daughters went to Australia in early life and Fannie died in that country. Mary, however, resides in Melbourne, Australia, and Charlotte is living in Wellington, New Zealand. In the spring of 1864 Charles Dawson came to the United States and in the fall of the same year his brothers, John and James B., also arrived in the new world. They spent a short time together in Pennsylvania and then separated, each starting out to seek his fortune. Shortly after the sons emigrated to the United States the parents also came and located in Limetown, Pennsylvania, where the father's death occurred five years later. The mother then joined her son, James, in Missouri and spent her last days in

that state. In 1867 William Dawson also came to this country and both he and his brother, John, died in Pennsylvania.

James B. Dawson was a lad of fourteen years when he crossed the Atlantic and from that time has been dependent entirely upon his own resources, so that he deserves great credit for the success he has achieved. His educational privileges were very limited, but from early youth he manifested a strong love of books, and through private study and the perusal of books and papers, combined with a broad experience in the affairs of life, he has become a well informed man. For several years he was engaged in lead and coal mining in Missouri, and for one term he pursued the study of medicine in the St. Louis Medical College; but not finding the profession entirely to his taste he left that institution and in 1877 located at Wadsworth, Illinois, where he engaged in the drug and grocery business. He removed from that town to Morris in 1884 and has since engaged in merchandising here, carrying a large line of groceries, drugs and toilet articles. He has been very successful in his business and is now enjoying a large and profitable trade.

While in Wadsworth Mr. Dawson was married, in 1880, to Miss Mary A. Sutherland, a native of Scotland, and three children honor their union—John, Mabel and Mamie. In politics Mr. Dawson is a Republican, unwavering in his support of the principles of the party. In the spring of 1899 he was elected a member of the board of aldermen in Morris and is now serving in that position. Fraternally he is a Master Mason. Quick of apprehension, he mastered the intricate affairs of business life and steadily worked his way upward, gaining a comfortable competence and at the same time meriting the respect and admiration of his fellow men. His career both public and private is marked by the strictest integrity and faithfulness to every trust reposed in him.

CRONIN BROTHERS.

Thomas M. and Daniel J. Cronin are twin brothers, and were born on the old homestead in Saratoga township, Grundy county, Illinois, November 25, 1851, their parents being James and Ellen (nee Donaven) Cronin, both of whom were natives of county Cork, Ireland, the father born in 1793 and the mother in 1813. They came to Prescott, Canada, where they resided for more than a year, and next removed to Florida, later to New Orleans, and thence by way of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to LaSalle, Illinois, and on to Ottawa, which latter place they reached in 1844, and here they resided for a short time. The father secured a contract for constructing a section of the Illinois and Michigan canal immediately west of

Morris, and on the completion of the work he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in what is now Saratoga township, Grundy county, the same being secured from the land commissioners and known as canal land. James Cronin located upon that tract and engaged in farming and made his home there until his death. He did not live many years to enjoy his new home, for his death occurred in October, 1855, when he had arrived at the age of sixty-two years. He left a widow and six children, the latter being: Mary, now Mrs. Dunn, of South Dakota; James, also of South Dakota; Ellen, now Mrs. Wilder, of Iowa; Lizzie, now Mrs. Curren, of Indian Territory; Thomas M. and Daniel J. The mother long survived her husband and from 1867 until her death in 1894 was a resident of Morris, residing with her sons, Thomas and Daniel. Many of the older citizens of Morris hold her in affectionate remembrance. She was a devoted Catholic and reared her children in the faith of that church.

Thomas M. and Daniel J. Cronin were born and reared upon the old homestead in Saratoga township, which property they still own. Their education was obtained in the Morris public schools at winter terms. During the summer months they worked early and late on their mother's farm. Their natures being identical in many ways, ambition and honesty prevailing, they early determined to hew their way to more than the life of a farmer, and in 1867 Daniel chose the trade of carriage-painting, in which, applying himself diligently, he soon became an expert, working in the meantime in the larger shops of Chicago and other cities throughout the Union. Thomas the same year, 1867, started to learn the trade of tinner, at which he worked many years, becoming a skillful workman. By frugality the brothers in time had accumulated a few hundred dollars, and in September of 1882 they established their present business in Morris. They opened a hardware store on the corner of Liberty and Jefferson streets, in a small room and with a small stock. But they applied themselves closely to their work, selling goods as recommended, and doing all jobbing work in a first-class manner. Their trade began to increase little by little; the shelves became the receptacles of more and a better class of goods, and the list of customers became larger. Their store-room became too small for their trade, and a happy thought dawned upon them. L. Gebhard was erecting an elegant three-story business block, and they leased the middle store-room, and now, with a small beginning in 1882, they have succeeded so admirably as to possess one of the finest equipped and best stocked hardware stores in the state. They carry a full line of hardware, farm implements and carriages, and transact a large volume of business. True merit wins every time, and here is an apt illustration of the fact. Whatever you buy of the Cronin Brothers, you may feel confident will be as recommended by them.

The brothers are both supporters of the Democratic party, but only Thomas has given much attention to political work. He served for five years as an alderman, and in 1889 was appointed the mayor of Morris to fill an unexpired term. In 1890 he was elected for the full term and in 1892 was re-elected, filling the position altogether for five consecutive years. His administration was progressive and he conducted the affairs of the city on business-like principles and was careful to suppress all movements that might prove detrimental and advanced all measures calculated to enhance the public good. Daniel Cronin is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Both brothers are widely and favorably known throughout Grundy county. They bear such strong resemblance to each other that even friends of many years' standing often find it difficult to distinguish them. Their business interests have ever been conducted with the utmost harmony and they certainly deserve great credit for the success which has been achieved by their own efforts. Their honorable methods have won them an unassailable reputation, and as representative business men of Morris they certainly deserve mention in this volume.

MRS. CLARISSA A. LINN.

Long a resident of Grundy county, and widely and favorably known, Mrs. Clarissa A. Linn well deserves mention in its history. She resides in Wauponsee township and is the owner of one of the valuable farms in this section of Illinois, where her husband carried on agricultural pursuits for many years. Her parents were Moses and Catherine (Sitterley) Pangborn, of Albany county, New York. In 1855 she became the wife of Peter Bradt, a representative of one of the oldest American families, his ancestry being traced back to Andrew Bradt, who in the year 1650 left Holland, the land of his birth, and crossed the Atlantic to the new world. He took up his abode in the New York colony, where he followed farming, aiding in opening up that wild and undeveloped region to the influence of civilization. The old brick residence which he erected and which was used as a rendezvous by the settlers in the French and Indian war, is still standing, in a good state of preservation. In 1690, when the treacherous Indians made their way to the locality in which he resided and massacred many of the people there, he was among the number who lost their lives. That event occurred in February, 1690, and is known in history as the great Schenectady massacre. His wife at that time took her infant son, Aaron, and wrapping him in a shawl hid him under a brush fence and thus saved his life. He lived to become one of the most prominent and worthy farmers of the Mohawk valley. He traded with the Indians and became the possessor of a tract of land

in that rich valley, eight miles wide and sixteen miles long. In order to secure a legal ownership he went direct to King George III, of England, and obtained from that monarch a title to his possessions. He was also the owner of the entire town of Princeton, situated just north of Schenectady township. His son, Samuel A. Bradt, was born in the Empire state and was the next in the line of direct descent. Samuel became the father of a son whom he called Samuel and who was also one of the leading agriculturists in this section of New York, owning and operating five hundred acres of land. At the time when the second war with England was inaugurated, however, he joined the American army and lost his life in that service. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mariah Springer, was also a native of New York. Their son, Frederick Bradt, became a carpenter and builder and followed that occupation in New York throughout his entire life. He was born in Rotterdam, New York, in 1830, and after arriving at years of maturity wedded Christiana Sitterley, also a native of Rotterdam.

It was their son, Peter, who became the first husband of Mrs. Linn, their marriage occurring in 1855. Peter Bradt was a carpenter and church builder and was connected with the building interests of the Empire state until 1855, when he came to Illinois, locating in Morris, where he followed contracting until 1861. In that year he enlisted in the three-months service as a member of Company C, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, and at the expiration of his term he re-enlisted, joining the "boys in blue" of Company G, Thirty-sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers, and with that command he served until the close of the war and was then mustered out in the spring of 1865. At the battle of Murfreesboro he was wounded and taken prisoner, and on account of his health he was given leave by the Confederate commander to return to his home. As soon as he was able, however, he rejoined his regiment, and at the battle of Stone River he was again wounded and again taken prisoner. The penalty of taking up arms again after once having been taken prisoner and not lawfully exchanged was death, and Mr. Bradt, knowing this and not being certain as to whether he had been exchanged during the time that he was ill and at home, went to prison a second time, under the name of P. A. Johnson. He was sent to Libby prison and his nephew, Frederick Bradt, is in possession of the razor and shears to which he attributed the saving of his life, for he used them in tonsorial work during his incarceration and thereby made money enough to keep him from starving. His barber chair was formed from an old sugar hogshead. Mr. Bradt remained in prison until the close of the war, when he was exchanged and with an honorable military record returned to his home. He then resumed contracting and building, and the last church which he erected was the house of worship

for the Methodists at Wauponsee. He died in December, 1873, leaving a son, Benjamin, who died the following year. The other son of the family, James, had passed away in 1864.

In 1874 Mrs. Bradt was again married, becoming the wife of Alexander Linn, a son of Moses and Nancy (Spear) Linn, of Pennsylvania. His mother was an own cousin of James Buchanan. His father was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, August 7, 1823, and was reared on one of the finest farms in that section of the Keystone state. He received a good education in the schools of Pennsylvania and under the direction of his mother, who was at one time a teacher in Jefferson College. About 1868 he came to Illinois, locating on a farm in Wauponsee township, which is now the home of Mrs. Linn, and there throughout the remainder of his life he carried on agricultural pursuits. He was one of the leading and influential citizens of the community, was a progressive farmer and accumulated considerable wealth before his death, which occurred in September, 1881. He left to his widow a handsome property. Their only child, Alexander, Jr., died at the age of four years.

Mrs. Linn still resides at the old home and is the owner of one of the finest farms in Grundy county, and her possessions supply her with the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, and she enjoys the friendship of many of the best people of the community. After the death of her husband she rented her farm until 1888, when her nephew, Frederick Bradt, assumed its management. A year later he was joined in his work by his brother, Jerome Bradt. They were sons of Martin and Catharine (Wood) Bradt. They successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising, relieving their aunt of all responsibility of the farm. But Jerome Bradt died March 28, 1900, at Morris, at the age of thirty-one years. At the time of his death her father was the proud possessor of the coat-of-arms of the original progenitor, Andrew Bradt, emblematic of his military career in Holland. This treasured heirloom is still in possession of the family of Martin Bradt.

JOSEPH HUTCHINGS.

In no part of our country has the self-made man been more in evidence or more influential upon the development of all the interests around him than in Illinois. Grundy county has, in all stages of its history, been benefited by numbering among her citizens many such men, and none of this class among the farmers of the county has made a more creditable record than the gentleman whose name constitutes the title of this article.

Joseph Hutchings, Wauponsee, Grundy county, a substantial farmer

Joseph Hutchings

Bridget Hutchings

and representative citizen, was born at Ropsley, Lincolnshire, England, October 26, 1827, a son of William and Mary (Rawlings) Hutchings. William Hutchings was born in Rutland, England, a son of John Hutchings, a farmer. William Hutchings was always a farmer. He married, in Ropsley, Mary Rawlings, a daughter of John and Mary Rawlings, and continued his residence at Ropsley. His children were William, Sarah, Mary Ann, Joseph, John, Edward, Frederick, Arthur and Elizabeth. William Hutchings and wife were both members of the Church of England. He died in England, October 12, 1859, aged about sixty-five years. He was a hard-working, industrious man. His children, except Frederick, Edward and Joseph, all remained in England. Joseph received but a limited education. Farming, however, he thoroughly learned, and he came to America when between twenty-three and twenty-four years of age. Embarking at Liverpool, February 27, 1851, in the good ship Fides, a sailing vessel, he was seven weeks on the voyage to New York, where he arrived April 12 following, after a very stormy passage, in which the ship lost its rudder and drifted out of its course. He worked on a farm in the town of Rinebeck, on the Hudson river, that summer, and in the fall of 1851 went to western New York and worked on a farm sixteen miles west of Buffalo until November, 1855, when he came to Illinois, making the journey by rail.

He was married in Buffalo, New York, November 4, 1855, to Bridget Clark, born December 25, 1823, in the parish of Drumard, Sligo county, Ireland, a daughter of James and Winifred (O'Dowd) Clark. The family of Clarks to which James Clark belonged have lived in that part of Ireland for centuries. His wife was from the neighboring parish of Screen.

James Clark and wife, who were the parents of two daughters, Mary and Bridget, were members of the Catholic church, and were respected for their uprightness and good character. Both died in Ireland. Bridget Clark, then seventeen, left her native land in the summer of 1850, sailing from Sligo, Ireland, to Liverpool, England, and from Liverpool for Quebec, and was five weeks on the voyage. She went from Quebec to Montreal and thence to Buffalo, New York. Her sister Mary had come to America about three years before, and was living in New Jersey. They had an uncle, Dennis O'Dowd, living in Buffalo, with whom Bridget lived five years, until her marriage, at twenty-two years of age.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings came to Grundy county and settled in Norman township, where he rented land of Marion Lloyd, a pioneer of this county and a substantial farmer of Vienna township. Mr. Hutchings worked the farm on shares, saved his money, and in 1861 bought eighty acres of his present farm, which was partly improved, but had no buildings. He prospered by enterprise and industry and added to

his land until he now owns four hundred and forty acres of fine farm land, with excellent improvements. Mr. Hutchings and his wife both worked hard and with great diligence to gain their property. They built a two-story frame residence in 1886 and have built other substantial farm buildings, and they now have one of the best properties and most pleasant homesteads in Vienna township. Their children are Francis Marion, born November 4, 1856; Mary Elizabeth, born September 29, 1859; Margaret Winifred, born February 9, 1863, died December 6, 1881; John Joseph, born April 27, 1866; and James W., born February 2, 1871.

Mrs. Hutchings and their children are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Hutchings is an attendant upon its services. In politics Mr. Hutchings is a stanch Democrat. He has made his way to fortune by economy and strict attention to business, and through his busy career has been aided immeasurably by his faithful, prudent and energetic wife, who shared with him the hardships of a pioneer life with patience and cheerfulness. When they came to the county the country was new. There were few settlements, the land was unimproved, a good deal of it was submerged during the whole or a portion of the year, and malaria and consequent sickness could not be avoided. Facilities for trade and exchange were few and the settlers had to accommodate one another in many ways not dreamed of by residents in these days of development and general prosperity. The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings rejoice that they have been spared to each other and to the community and to the peaceful and leisurely enjoyment of the fruits of their well-doing.

JOHN BONAR.

Among the worthy citizens that Scotland has furnished to the new world is John Bonar, who is now successfully engaged in the clothing business in Morris. He was born in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, August 30, 1842, and is a son of James and Mary (Shepard) Bonar, representatives of old Scotch families. They lived and died in their native land, where the father engaged in coal-mining, being mine boss at one coal mine for twenty-one years. He died at the age of forty-eight, and his wife passed away at the age of sixty-seven. They were the parents of six sons and seven daughters.

John Bonar obtained a limited education in the land of his nativity and at the early age of nine years he began to earn his own living, working in the coal mines. He followed that pursuit for some time, and before leaving Scotland he was married. In 1867, hoping to better his financial condition in the new world, he sailed to the United States, and on landing in

New York made his way directly to Morris. He was identified with the coal-mining interests of this locality for about seventeen years and was then made mine inspector of Grundy county, holding the position for three years. At the expiration of that period he was appointed deputy sheriff, serving for four years under Sheriff John Schroder. In August, 1891, he entered the mercantile ranks and has since been engaged in the clothing business as the senior member of the firm of John Bonar & Son. They have a commodious store, well stocked with a fine line of goods, and from the public are receiving a liberal patronage.

Mr. Bonar was married in Scotland in 1862 to Margaret Patterson, who also was of Scottish birth and ancestry. Three children were there born to them: Christina, who was married in 1887 to Henry Matters and then removed to Nebraska, where she died in the first year of her married life; James B., who is the manager of Wile Brothers' clothing store in Morris; and Alexander, who is associated with his father in business. Nine months after his arrival in America Mr. Bonar sent for his wife and three children, and in this country eight children have been added to the family circle, but three of them are now deceased. The five still living are Jane, a teacher in Morris high school; John, Mary, Thomas and Nellie, who are yet at their parental home.

In his political views Mr. Bonar is a stalwart Republican, and exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the party and does all in his power to promote its growth and insure its success. Socially he is a representative of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and the family are numbered among the most favorably known citizens of Morris. Mr. Bonar has justly won the proud title of a self-made man. He started out in life at a very tender age and in his youth experienced many hardships and difficulties, but he possessed strong determination and resolute purpose, which enabled him to overcome many of the obstacles in his path. His hope of more rapidly acquiring a competence in America has been fully realized and he is accounted one of the substantial merchants of his adopted city.

J. D. McKEEN.

J. D. McKeen, a liveryman of Morris, Illinois, is among the younger representative business men of the town, and is a native son of Grundy county.

Mr. McKeen was born May 31, 1874, a son of Isaiah H. and Louisa (Hupp) McKeen, and a grandson of the pioneer James McKeen. James

McKeen was a Pennsylvanian who came out to Illinois in the early history of this state, settled in Grundy county, and built the first house in Morris. He has long since passed away. His widow, now a venerable woman of ninety-six years, one of the oldest residents of the county, resides with her son Isaiah H. McKeen. Isaiah H. McKeen is one of the respected farmers of Erienna township, and with the exception of four years, when he was engaged in the livery business at Morris, his life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. His wife was born in LaSalle county, this state, of which place her parents were early settlers.

In 1896, when Isaiah H. McKeen retired from the livery business and returned to his farm, he was succeeded in business by his son J. D., who has since conducted the establishment successfully.

J. D. McKeen was married, February 26, 1896, to Miss Cora Matteson, daughter of Storey and Jennie Matteson, and they have two children—Jerald and Meta.

Mr. McKeen has fraternal relations with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

WILLIAM D. LLOYD.

For forty-three years William DeLand Lloyd has been a resident of Illinois and is numbered among the pioneer settlers of this section of the state, and has therefore witnessed much of the growth and development of Morris county and has ever borne his part in the work of progress. He has seen the wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, while hamlets have become cities and all the evidences of an advanced civilization have replaced the primitive forms of pioneer life.

Mr. Lloyd was born on a farm in Oneida county, New York, March 28, 1825, and is a son of William Rily and Lucy (DeLand) Lloyd. The father was born in Massachusetts, April 15, 1798, and died in Kendall county, Illinois, February 16, 1876. On the 22d of October, 1823, he married Miss DeLand, whose birth occurred in Oneida county, New York, July 10, 1798, and who died in Chautauqua county, that state, June 10, 1832. The Lloyd family is of Welsh origin and at an early day was planted on American soil, since which time its representatives have resided in Massachusetts. Mrs. Lloyd was probably of French lineage. She died when her son William, her only child, was about seven years of age, and the father afterward married Elizabeth Ransom, by whom he had four sons, namely: Nelson R., a resident of Chicago; Clinton R., who died in Dakota in 1897; Henry Harrison, also of Chicago; and Cyrus B., a farmer of Kendall county, Illinois.

When William D. Lloyd was about a year old his parents removed to Chautauqua county, New York, where he spent his boyhood days upon a farm. At the age of fifteen he left the parental roof and from that time has been dependent upon his own resources. His educational privileges were limited and he had neither wealth nor influential friends to aid him. His wages, too, were given to his father until he was twenty-two years of age. His home was scarcely a pleasant place of residence to him after his father's second marriage, but his love for his parent was very strong, as is indicated by his bringing the money which he had earned to his father. He worked as a farm hand by the month for several years, and in 1853 resolved to carry on agricultural pursuits on his own account. Accordingly he purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, at twenty dollars per acre, but he went in debt for this, and later could not meet the payments; so he decided to try his fortune in the west. In the fall of 1856 he arrived in Illinois, locating in Kendall county, where for seven years he operated land on the shares. In the meantime he purchased eighty acres of land at thirty-five dollars per acre, and during the seven-years' period he not only cleared it of all indebtedness but also accumulated one thousand dollars additional. His life has been one of great industry, and he prosecuted his labors with unremitting diligence until about 1888, when he removed to Morris, where he has since lived retired. In his business dealings he was quite successful and a year after paying for his first eighty acres he purchased seventy-five acres, transforming the entire amount into a valuable farm which he recently sold for sixty-eight dollars per acre. He is now seventy-five years of age but still enjoys good health and has the figure of a man of much younger years. He is five feet nine inches in height and his average weight is about one hundred and sixty pounds, but at the present time he weighs two hundred pounds.

On the 5th of January, 1853, Mr. Lloyd married Julia A. Abbott, a daughter of Samuel W. and Ursula (Bryan) Abbott. Her father was born in Camden, Oneida county, New York, October 27, 1808, and died in Clinton, New York, December 28, 1892. He was the son of Nehemiah Abbott, who was born in Plymouth, Connecticut. Ursula Bryan was born January 23, 1809, in Camden, Oneida county, New York, and her marriage occurred May 21, 1829. Her father was Benjamin Bryan, a native of Watertown, Connecticut. Since November, 1893, Mrs. Abbott has resided with her daughter, Mrs. Lloyd, and in her family were the following children: Rhoda A., Samuel T., Sophrona, Abigail, Ursula, Julian, John, Asahel and Roderick. By her marriage Mrs. Abbott became the mother of five children: Julia Atwater, born November 14, 1830; Sidney M., Newall J., Mary A. and Wayne G. The eldest son, Sidney M. Abbott, enlisted in

the Union army during the civil war and was killed in November, 1863, while making the ascent at Mission Ridge. Newall J. was also one of the loyal "boys in blue" and served throughout the struggle between the north and the south as a member of Company D, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd are Herbert W., who was born July 28, 1859, and died September 11, 1863; Maynard W., who was born September 18, 1862, and died September 28, 1863; Lucy DeLand, who was born November 8, 1864, and is the wife of James Hubbard, of Plattville, Kendall county, by whom she has five children: Ida Clayton, deceased; Arthur W., Myrtle D., Luella U. and Uriah. Elva Abbott Lloyd, who was born February 22, 1870, married G. W. Elerding, of Morris, by whom she has a son, Frank Abbott Elerding.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd are members of the Congregational church, and in his political faith Mr. Lloyd is Republican, but has never sought or desired office, his time and energies being devoted to his business interests, in which he has attained a creditable success. The record of such a man is well worthy of emulation and contains many valuable lessons which may be profitably followed. He has demonstrated the truth of the saying that success is not a matter of genius, but the reward of earnest labor directed or guided by practical common sense. He is now living retired in Morris, enjoying the fruits of his former toil and surrounded by his many friends, who esteem him highly for his sterling worth.

SALEM IRONS.

Some of the best blood in Illinois flows in the veins of Salem Irons, who is descended from emigrants and pioneers of the highest character and most edifying memory. He is one of Mazon township's well-to-do farmers and most highly respected citizens, and in his own life has to a degree repeated the struggles and triumphs of his ancestors. All of his American progenitors were New England colonists, and the great Roger Williams himself contributed to the life current which animates his character.

The remote founders of the Irons family came from England in the Puritan emigration to Massachusetts bay in the origin of that colony. The first of the name of whom there is any record was Matthew Irons, who married Annie Brown, of Boston, Massachusetts, and died in 1661. The following is the genealogy of the family: Samuel Irons, son of Matthew, was baptized November 25, 1650, married Sarah Belcher, September 13, 1677, and died September 25, 1690. Sarah Belcher died August 26, 1693. Samuel Irons, born March 17, 1680, married Sarah Whipple May 3, 1709,

and died September 30, 1720. Sarah married again and her second husband was John Warner. Samuel Irons, born October 10, 1718, married, about 1740, Hannah Waterman, a daughter of Resolved and Mercy (Williams) Waterman and a granddaughter of Roger Williams, and died November 27, 1793. Hannah died July 13, 1806. The children of Samuel and Hannah Irons were born at the following dates: Samuel, May 22, 1740; Resolved, May 17, 1743; Sarah, October 24, 1745; Mercy, April 26, 1748; Stephen, May 23, 1751; Hannah, April 22, 1754; Samuel, February 16, 1757; Lydia, May 13, 1759, and Mary, July 31, 1763. Resolved married Amy Dexter and lived in Gloucester, Rhode Island. Sarah married an Aldrich. Mercy married a Warner. Stephen married Sarah Tinkham, of Gloucester, Rhode Island. Hannah married Thomas Field, of Scituate, Rhode Island. Lydia married Thomas Whipple, of Providence, same state. Mary married Asa Steere, of Providence.

Samuel Irons, born February 16, 1757, married Huldah Colwell, a daughter of Joseph and Amy Colwell, and they were the grandparents of the immediate subject of this sketch. Samuel died November 2, 1815. Huldah died November 5, 1823. The children of Samuel and Huldah (Colwell) Irons were born as follows: Candice, July 20, 1782; Amasa, February 8, 1784; Amy, August 11, 1785; Lydia, October 21, 1787; Colwell, September 19, 1789; Betsy, July 25, 1791; James, July 16, 1793; Samuel, May 25, 1795; Nathan, May 19, 1797; Paris, October 16, 1799; and Huldah, February 3, 1802. The father of these children owned and lived on a farm in the town of Gloucester, Rhode Island, which remains in the ownership of the Irons family to this day. It is a good farm of two hundred acres, with excellent improvements. Huldah, the wife of Samuel Irons, was not only the granddaughter of Roger Williams but was also descended from Joshua Windsor, who emigrated to America and settled in Providence in 1638.

James Irons, the father of Salem Irons, was born July 16, 1793, at the old homestead in Gloucester. He gained an old-fashioned New England common-school education and an intimate knowledge of farming, and married Phebe Steere, born in Gloucester, a daughter of Jeremiah and Phebe Steere. The Steeres were of English ancestry and old colonial settlers of Rhode Island. Jeremiah Steere was a substantial and respected farmer of Gloucester, where he died at an advanced age; and his children were Potter, Jeremiah, Miranda, Salinda, Asenath, Betsy and Mary. James Irons, after his marriage, settled in Charlton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, on a farm of one hundred and fifty acres which he bought and on which he had a good home. Later he lived in Rhode Island. His children were William H., Salem, James, Sarah, John and Leander. In politics Mr. Irons was an

original Republican, but was previously a Democrat. He was a man of excellent constitution and of good habits, and well known for his honesty and integrity of character, and he reared excellent and respected children. When about seventy years of age he came to Illinois and made his home with his son Salem until he died, November 12, 1882, aged over eighty-nine years.

Salem Irons was born November 18, 1824, at Charlton, Massachusetts. He received such a common-school education as was available in his day and was reared on the farm and learned the carpenter's trade in Rhode Island, where his father moved when Salem was about fifteen years old, and where the family lived many years. He was married in Killingly, Connecticut, July 5, 1846, to Harriet Yeaw, born in Scituate, Rhode Island, October 11, 1824, a daughter of Henry and Alma (Knight) Yeaw. The Yeaws were an old colonial family. Henry Yeaw was born at Scituate, a son of David Yeaw, and was a stone and brick mason by trade, and passed all his days in Scituate. The children were Amasa, Harriet, Theophilus, Rufus, Henry, Mary A., Maria, Alma and Albert, the last mentioned of whom died young. Henry Yeaw was in moderate circumstances, industrious, hard-working, and in every sense a good citizen, whose children were an honor to the community. He lived to be fifty-two years old and died at Scituate.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Salem Irons lived three years in Providence, Rhode Island, where he followed carpentering. They then moved to Scituate, Rhode Island, and lived there one year and afterward lived a year on a farm at Gloucester. In March, 1853, they moved to Illinois, making the journey by steamer to New York city and thence by rail to Wheaton, DuPage county, Illinois, where Mr. Irons worked at carpentering for two years. They moved to Morris in 1855 and Mr. Irons did carpenter work there also. In 1857 they settled on their present farm, which then consisted of one hundred acres of fine farm land, for which Mr. Irons paid twenty-five dollars per acre, trading one hundred and sixty acres of Iowa land in the deal. The farm had but little improvement on it and Mr. Irons, by industry and thrift, gradually improved it, erecting excellent farm buildings, and now has one of the finest homesteads in this part of the county. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Irons were born and named as follows: Henry Augustus, June 14, 1850; Phebe Maria, May 4, 1855; and Clara Isabel, October 26, 1858.

In politics Mr. Irons is a stanch Republican and he has voted that ticket since the organization of the party. He is a public-spirited man, who favors good roads and all useful improvements. He has held the office of road commissioner for more than twenty years and has proved an efficient

Sylvester H. Dewey

Melissa A. Dewey

and capable official. Mr. Irons had three brothers in the great civil war,—William H., John and Leander. William H. and John were in the Thirty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and were in many battles, among them those at Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Resaca. They were in the Atlanta campaign and took part in engagements at Buzzards' Roost, Adairsville, New Hope Church, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Lost Mountain and Peach Tree Creek. Leander was the commissary sergeant of his company in the Seventy-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. While in active service he was thrown from his horse and his leg was broken, and he was honorably discharged on account of this disability.

Salem Irons has been a substantial citizen of this county for many years and is well known for sturdy industry, honesty of purpose and high moral character. He is entirely a self-made man, having accumulated his property by his own exertions, and, aided by his faithful wife, has reared children of which they may well be proud. Now in his declining years he enjoys the peaceful and substantial reward of well-doing and takes not a little pleasure in going, in memory, over the changing scenes of his long and busy life, which cover the period of our advancement from primitive conditions to the development of the end of the nineteenth century.

SYLVESTER H. DEWEY.

Sylvester H. Dewey is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Grundy county and is descended from sterling Puritan ancestry, of the same family to which belongs the famous Admiral Dewey. It is believed that the family is of French origin, tradition declaring that ancestors lived in Flanders and that the town of Douai, France, was named in their honor. When William the Conqueror journeyed into England he was accompanied by representatives of the name, who located in Lincolnshire, northeast of London. There is also a tradition that the family is of Welsh origin. In Burk's Heraldry, however, it is said that the name Dewey was originally De la Wey, and it is believed that the ancestors who went to England with William the Conqueror bore that name, which finally was changed to its present form, Dewey.

The line of descent in America is easily traced back to Thomas Dewey, who sailed from Sandwich, England, and this fact leads to the further belief that he was of French Huguenot extraction. His descendants even in the second generation were millers, carpenters and millwrights. In the second generation the sons of Israel were weavers and tailors, which is strong evidence in support of the opinion. As a family the Deweys were sober, hon-

est, industrious and long-lived people, and were ever in the van of progress, and were particularly noted for their loyalty and bravery. Many representatives of the name served in the Revolutionary army and have been leaders in the work of settling the wild and unimproved regions of the west. At a later date many have attained prominence in professional life. Thomas Dewey, the founder of the branch in America to which our subject belongs, was a dissenter from the Church of England, and with the Puritans came to the colony of Massachusetts between the years 1630 and 1633. He first located in Dorchester, Massachusetts, where he was enrolled and took the oath of a freeman May 14, 1634. He owned land, a record of land granted to him being made February 28, 1640. His property comprised a tract of seven acres and additional lots, and to these he added by purchase. He died intestate, and an inventory of his estate is given in the genealogy of the Dewey family. He was married March 22, 1639, at Windsor, Connecticut, to Frances, widow of Joseph Clark, and after his death Mrs. Dewey was married again, her third husband being George Philips. Their children were: Thomas E., born February 16, 1640; Josiah, who was baptized October 10, 1641; Anna, who was baptized October 15, 1643; Israel, born September 25, 1645; and Jedediah, born December 15, 1647. The children were all born in Windsor, Connecticut, and all were married.

Thomas Dewey, the representative of the second generation in direct line to our subject, was born in Windsor, Connecticut, December 16, 1640, and died April 27, 1690, at the age of fifty years. He was a miller and farmer in Little River district, and resided at Windsor, Connecticut, as late as January 8, 1660. As he had there paid six shillings he was seated in the long seats in the meeting-house. According to the old records he removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, where, on the 12th of November, 1662, he was granted a home lot of four acres upon the condition that he make improvements upon it within a year. He was also granted another tract of twelve acres in the same place, and at his new home he engaged in the milling business. In August, 1666, he removed to Waranock, then a part of Springfield, where he was a landholder and one of the leading citizens. He was instrumental in building a dam and mill at that place and took an active part in public affairs. He served as a cornet in a New Hampshire troop, was a representative to Boston in 1677-9 and a selectman from 1677 to 1686. He was also licensed by the court to keep a public house or hotel. At Dorchester, Massachusetts, he married Constance Hawes, daughter of Richard and Ann Hawes, who came to Massachusetts in the ship Freelove, under command of Captain Gibbs, in 1635. The children of Thomas and Ann (Hawes) Dewey were: Thomas E., born at Northampton, Massachusetts, March 26, 1664; Adijah, born at Northampton, March 5, 1666; Mary, born

at Northampton, January 28, 1668; Samuel, born June 25, 1670, in Westfield, Massachusetts; Hannah, born in Westfield, February 21, 1672; Elizabeth, born in Westfield, January 16, 1676, and died February 27, 1682; James, born in Westfield, July 3, 1678; Abigail, born in Westfield, February 14, 1681; James, born November 12, 1683, and died May 5, 1686; and Israel, born in Westfield, July 9, 1686.

Captain Adijah Dewey, the son of Thomas Dewey, 2d, was born at Northampton, Massachusetts, March 5, 1666, and died March 24, 1742, in Westfield, at the age of seventy-six years. He was a very influential man of that locality, as is shown by various town records. He was a surveyor of the bridge at Millbrook, county surveyor in 1693, constable in 1697 and tithing man in 1702. He commanded a company of fifty men in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, and saw eight weeks' service, being ordered to the relief of Deerfield and other towns. From 1730 until 1740 he filled the office of selectman. He was married in 1688 to Sarah, a daughter of John and Mary (Ashley) Root, and his children were: Thomas, who was born January 9, 1691; Adijah, September 30, 1693; Sarah, March 17, 1696; Esther, January 20, 1698; Mary, September 18, 1701; Abigail, January 28, 1703; Bethiah, August 11, 1706; Ann, March 22, 1719; and Moses, January 6, 1715. All were married.

Adijah Dewey, son of Captain Adijah Dewey, was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, September 30, 1693, and died there January 31, 1753, at the age of fifty-nine years. He was a saddler by trade. On the 11th of January, 1733, he wedded Mercy Ashley, a daughter of David and Mary (Dewey) Ashley, and their children are: Ashbel, born April 23, 1734; Medad, November 18, 1736; Bethiah, September 22, 1739; Mercy, born April 11, 1743, and died December 28, 1764, at the age of twenty-one; and Hadley, who was married in 1761 to Stephen Goodman.

Medad Dewey, son of Adijah Dewey, 2d, was born November 18, 1736, in Westfield, Massachusetts, and there died December 31, 1760, in the twenty-fifth year of his age. He was a farmer, and in 1751 he settled a few miles south of Westfield, on a place owned by Charles Dewey. He was married December 8, 1738, to Elizabeth Noble, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Root) Noble. They had two children: Solomon, who was born November 7, 1758; and Medad.

Medad Dewey, son of Medad Dewey, Sr., was born in Westfield, December 20, 1760, and died April 15, 1849, at Leyden, New York, when nearly ninety years of age. He followed farming in Little River district, near Westfield, and in 1800 removed with his family to the Mohawk valley, arriving in Leyden, New York, after a journey of two weeks. His goods were hauled on an ox sled. He was one of the patriots of the Revolution,

serving as a private in the command of Captain Preserved Leonards and Colonel Elijah Porter, and was in the defense of New London, Connecticut, when it was attacked by the British army commanded by Benedict Arnold. He married Tryphena Roberts, who was born in 1769, of Welsh parentage, and died in Leyden, New York, January, 1839, at the age of seventy years. Their children, born in Westfield, Massachusetts, were: Bethiah, born November 19, 1789; Elizabeth, August 1, 1791; Almira, August 11, 1793; Harvey, February 17, 1795; and Edmund, October 14, 1799; and in Leyden, New York, Lemuel, in October, 1804.

Harvey Dewey, a son of Medad Dewey, 2d, and the father of our subject, was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, February 17, 1795, and died July 17, 1876, at the age of eighty-one years. He was only five years old when his parents removed to Leyden, New York. He made farming his life work and became the possessor of his father's old homestead, to which he added until he owned two hundred and forty acres, becoming one of the prosperous men, as well as one of the influential citizens, of his day. For several years he was assessor of Leyden, and for many years he served as a deacon in the Boonville Baptist church. He became a soldier in the war of 1812, and was in the action at Sackett's Harbor. About 1820 he married Jerusha Jenks, a daughter of Joel and Lucy (Holbrook) Jenks. She was born in Leyden, New York, June 27, 1803, and there died June 14, 1873, when nearly seventy years of age. Their children were: Sylvester Harvey, born August 14, 1821; Lester Scott, March 27, 1823; Samantha, March 26, 1825; Alexander, August 16, 1828; Chester Gay, February 2, 1831; Eli Judson, July 17, 1835; Angeline Lodice, January 4, 1839; Madison Medad, who was born January 30, 1843, and died February 12, 1848; Cassius Delos, who was born November 2, 1845; and Caius Carlos, born on the same day, a twin brother of Cassius Delos. The family has always been celebrated for its marked loyalty and valor, and both Cassius and Caius were soldiers in the civil war. The latter, who was a fifer of Company I, One Hundred and Seventeenth New York Infantry, died September 11, 1863, at the age of seventeen years, his death occurring at Foley island, Charleston harbor, from fever brought on by exposure in the long march. Two of Samantha's sons, Walter and Marius, were also numbered among the "boys in blue," and three of the sons of Lemuel Dewey were soldiers in that war.

Sylvester Harvey Dewey was born at Leyden, New York, August 14, 1821. He received the usual common-school education and afterward attended an academy at Lowville for one and a half terms. Subsequently he spent a year in the Freewill Baptist Seminary, in Clinton, and his studious habits and close application gained him broad general knowledge. His interest in educational matters, his extensive reading and his experience in the

practical affairs of life have greatly added to his wisdom, and he is to-day one of the best informed men of the county. For a number of years in early life he engaged in teaching, entering upon that work in Lewis county, New York. After coming to Illinois he taught for two winters, and during the civil war he spent three winters as an instructor in the school-room. He had the ability to impart clearly and concisely to others the knowledge that he had acquired and was numbered among the leading educators of that time.

While in his native town Mr. Dewey was married, December 30, 1847, to Melissa Porter, who died February 19, 1849, at about the age of twenty-four years. Mr. Dewey was afterward married, on the 28th day of May, 1851, to Melissa A. Fisk, of Boonville, New York, a daughter of James and Eleanor (Pitcher) Fisk. She was born November 23, 1828, in Boonville, New York. Her father, James Fisk, was born in Scituate, Rhode Island, his father being Job Fisk. The Fisks were of English descent, the family having been founded in Rhode Island prior to the Revolutionary war. Job Fisk made farming his life work and he was married in early manhood. His children were: Jemimah, James, Thomas, Althea, Job and Rebecca. The father of these children died at the home of his son James in Boonville.

James Fisk, the father of Mrs. Dewey, was born in Scituate, Rhode Island, February 3, 1771. He was married December 25, 1800, to Rhobe Leach, who was born December 25, 1781. She died April 18, 1802, leaving a daughter Rhobe, who was born March 11, 1802, was married in 1818 and died in November, 1824. After the death of his first wife James Fisk was married, in 1803, to Frances (Blackmore) Leach, who was born in 1786. Their children were: John Leach, who was born January 9, 1804, was married February 6, 1825, and died in March, 1867. Elvira, who was born November 6, 1805, was married January 23, 1825, to Noah Nelson, and died August 12, 1870. Charles Blackmore, born September 1, 1806, died at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, in 1876; and Louisa, born September 19, 1808, was married March 11, 1827, to Erastus Franklin. In 1813 James Fisk was a third time married, his union being with Eleanor Pitcher, who was born February 2, 1795, and died January 15, 1849. Her father, Daniel Pitcher, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, January 30, 1762, and died April 18, 1844. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Eleanor Burt, was born in South Springfield, Massachusetts, October 20, 1762, and died October 20, 1849. Their children were: Elijah, who was born March 11, 1787, and died January 9, 1842; Chloe, who was born October 30, 1787, and died July 31, 1863; Clarissa, who was born September 3, 1790, and died March 6, 1859; Daniel, who was born February 18, 1792, and died May 7, 1854; Noah, who was born June 12, 1793, and died November 24, 1874; Eleanor, wife

of Mr. Fisk, was born February 2, 1795, and died January 15, 1844; Aruna, who was born June 11, 1796, and died December 27, 1871; Achsah, who was born June 27, 1798, and died July 3, 1878; Bethuel, who was born March 11, 1800, and died February 17, 1848; Conklin, who was born October 27, 1801, and died May 8, 1875; Samuel, who was born December 30, 1803, and died April 30, 1804; and Spencer, who was born July 20, 1805, and died April 11, 1877. Daniel Pitcher, the father of these children, was a resident of Westfield, Massachusetts, and a farmer and landholder. His life was an industrious and upright one, and he was highly respected by all who knew him.

In the year 1803 James Fisk had removed from Rhode Island to Boonville, Oneida county, New York, making the journey with an ox sled, and spending between four and five weeks on the way. He settled on new land in the midst of the forest, and made there a good home. It was after his arrival in New York that he was a third time married, Eleanor Pitcher becoming his wife. The children of their union were: Chloe, who was born February 6, 1814, and was married in 1835 to Fordice M. Rogers, her death occurring May 22, 1859; James, born January 13, 1816, married Barbara Belanger, and after her death was married to Betsey Pool, on the 15th of January, 1845, his death occurring April 9, 1849; Rebecca Ruth, born July 5, 1818, was married in January, 1838, to Benjamin Nelson, and died April 29, 1847; Job W., born October 4, 1819, was married to Emily H. Pitcher, and after her death wedded Sarah E. Pitcher; Achsah O., born October 15, 1821, was married in January, 1841, to Horace Pitcher, who died May 27, 1844, and she afterward wedded Stephen Murphy, whose death occurred in April, 1885, while she survived until June 30, 1899; Elijah Pitcher, born September 20, 1823, was married February 28, 1865, to Harriette P. Jackson, who died August 1, 1898, and he passed away January 15, 1890; Jeremiah, born September 17, 1825, was married June 8, 1852, to Margaret Comstock, and died December 26, 1878, his wife's death occurring April 8, 1867; Melissa A., born November 23, 1828, is the wife of Sylvester H. Dewey, whose name begins this review, and Milton Eri, born December 3, 1830, was married September 17, 1860, to Anna S. Traffurn, and died June 9, 1876.

After his marriage Sylvester H. Dewey, whose name heads this sketch, located on a partly improved farm of two hundred acres three miles west of Boonville, New York. About four years later he sold that property and in 1855 came by rail to Illinois, leaving home on the 15th of June. He also visited Wisconsin and then returned to New York, and in October of the same year brought his family to this state, reaching his destination on the 27th of October. He purchased eighty acres of land where Verona now stands, paying four hundred and fifty dollars for the same. It was a

wild tract, but with characteristic energy he began its cultivation and erected good buildings thereon. After living on his farm for four years he removed to Mazon township and purchased two hundred and twenty acres, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. He has prospered, as a result of untiring industry, economy and capable management, and as his financial resources have increased he has extended the boundaries of his farm until it comprises five hundred and forty acres. He was actively identified with agricultural interests until 1873, when he removed to Morris and engaged in the agricultural implement and grain business. There he remained for four years, after which he returned to the home farm, but two years later he removed to the village of Mazon and once more began dealing in agricultural implements and grain. He has always been a very energetic and active business man and has handled farming land quite extensively. He now has a very liberal patronage and makes extensive deals in both branches of his business. He has always been noted for his straightforward and honorable course in life, and his integrity in all trade transactions is above question.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dewey have been born the following children: Ellen Melissa, born in Leyden, New York, May 30, 1852, was married in Morris, Illinois, November 26, 1874, to Horace H. Overocker, whose birth occurred in Oneida county, New York, September 28, 1849. They had one child, Burton H., who was born in Mazon, December 16, 1865. He was married in his native town, on the 1st of June, 1897, to Ivy Rigall, whose birth occurred in Mazon, June 15, 1879, and by whom he has two children, Vernon, born December 19, 1897; and Veda Overocker, who was born in Mazon, December 27, 1898.

Alice Eliza Dewey, the second child of Sylvester and Melissa Dewey, was born in Leyden, February 8, 1854, and was married in Mazon, December 12, 1878, to Daniel Webster Francis, whose birth occurred in Chester county, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1848. Their children are: Arthur D., born in Cedar Springs, Michigan, April 24, 1880; Laura D., born August 18, 1881, in Mazon; Myrtle D., born in Mazon, March 28, 1883; and Harry D., born in Mazon, January 13, 1885.

Milton Sylvester Dewey, 3d, was born in Leyden, New York, June 1, 1855. He was married in Wauponsee, February 27, 1878, to Margaret Dewey, who was born in Washington county, New York, March 16, 1858. Their children are: Sarah Melissa, born in Mazon, December 7, 1879; Henry Eugene, in Mazon, September 2, 1882; Mable, in Mazon, November 9, 1884; Flora Mary, June 28, 1886; William Arthur, May 30, 1888; Alice Estella, February 21, 1892; and Ernest Albert, January 15, 1896.

Mary Jerusha, the fourth of the family, was born in Vienna, Illinois, May 15, 1857, and was graduated in the Morris Normal and Scientific

School, June 16, 1881. Lester Scott, born in Vienna, December 6, 1859, was married in Morris, Illinois, December 31, 1879, to Asenath Eudora Smith, whose birth occurred April 11, 1861. Their children are: Jessie, born in Mazon, October 5, 1880; Charles, born in Mazon, November 6, 1881; Walter, born in Bentora, Nebraska, April 28, 1883; and Flora May, born in Bentora, December 18, 1884. Flora Angelina, the youngest member of the Dewey family, was born in Mazon, August 21, 1863, and was graduated in the Morris Normal and Scientific School on the 16th of June, 1881. The two youngest children are both deceased.

In his political affiliations Mr. Dewey, whose name introduces this review, was formerly an Abolitionist and voted for John P. Hale, the first Abolition candidate for the presidency. When the Republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks, supporting John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln. He has always been a strong advocate of the cause of temperance, and was one of the organizers of the Prohibition party in Grundy county. He voted for William J. Bryan and free silver in 1896, but otherwise supported the candidates of the Prohibition party. He is one of the valued and esteemed residents of Grundy county. In an early day he served as the clerk of Vienna township and as the supervisor, and for many years was the supervisor of Mazon township. In 1872 he was elected a member of the state board of equalization, and during his four years' service proved an efficient and capable member of the board. He was the chairman of one of the principal committees controlling its laws in the division which included Chicago. He was also a member of the committee on tangible taxable property of railroads, and at an early day he served as the chairman of the Republican congressional district for two years. He is a man of strong mentality, who has made a close and thorough study of economical, political and governmental problems. He has also been an extensive reader and is very familiar with historical and standard works of the best current literature. In early life he took a very active interest in promoting literary lyceums and debating societies, and was a member of several of those organizations. While in Morris he served as president of the Public Library Association, and at all times he has endeavored to promote the intellectual welfare of his community. His wife is a very prominent member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Mazon and one of its efficient workers, having filled the office of president for some time. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dewey were for many years members of the Baptist church. He joined the church in Boonville, New York, when about sixteen years of age, and later served as the superintendent of the Sunday-school. His wife joined the church when about twenty-three years of age, and they were both active workers in the organi-

zation, Mrs. Dewey serving as teacher during the superintendency of her husband. They have both become much more liberal in their religious views, their opinions on such questions being in harmony with the Unitarian doctrine. About 1866 Mrs. Dewey and her oldest girls, Ellen M. and Alice E., joined the Baptist church in Morris. They took their letters when they wished to join elsewhere, Mrs. Dewey hers when the family moved back to their old home in Mazon in 1877. There is no Baptist church in Mazon, so Mrs. Dewey has attended the Methodist Episcopal church since the family moved to the village of Mazon, in March, 1880. They contribute liberally to all movements which are calculated to advance humanitarian principles and which will prove a benefit to the intellectual, social and moral welfare of the community.

THOMAS CARSON.

It has surely been not uninteresting to observe, in the series of biographical sketches appearing in this volume, the varying nationality, origin and early environments of men who have made their way to positions of prominence and success. In no better way can we gain a conception of the diverse elements which have entered into our social, professional and commercial life, and which were imparted to the future American type, features which cannot be conjectured at the present time. Scotland has furnished her quota of men of worth who have contributed to the improvement and development of the country, becoming reliable and trustworthy citizens. Of this number Mr. Carson is a representative.

He was born in the land of hills and heather, February 9, 1827, his parents being William and Grace (Maxwell) Carson. The father was a coal operator and for many years engaged in mining, spending his entire life in the land of his nativity. He was twice married, and the children of the first union were John, who died in Cincinnati, Ohio; David, who died in Scotland; Robert, who died in Iroquois county, Illinois; William, who died in Scotland; Elizabeth and Grace, who passed away in Scotland; James, whose death occurred in Virginia; Mary, twin sister of our subject, now residing in Scotland; and Bryce, who makes his home in Virginia. After the death of his first wife the father was again married, and by the second union had a son, Alexander, who also died in Scotland.

In early life Thomas Carson, of this review, engaged in mining, and was also employed as an engineer. In 1851, when twenty-four years of age, he came to the United States and making his way to Cincinnati secured employment in the water-works there. Later he worked in the new court-

house in Cincinnati, his task being to punch and prepare the iron used in the construction of the building. Subsequently he removed to a little town near Youngstown, Ohio, where he was employed in an iron smelter.

Mr. Carson first visited Morris in 1856, but afterward returned to Youngstown, and in 1857 again came to Morris, where he has since made his home. Here he became interested in coal-mining, operating the mines under a lease for several years. In 1861 he was married, and soon afterward he and his wife opened a hotel near the depot known as the Carson House. This they successfully conducted for more than thirty years, and their untiring industry and capable management brought them prosperity. In his mining operations Mr. Carson was also successful, and about ten years ago, placing the hotel in charge of his son-in-law, William R. Allan, he retired from active business life to enjoy through his remaining days the rest which he has so truly earned.

Mrs. Carson bore the maiden name of Jane Sharp. She, too, was a native of Scotland, born May 26, 1826. Her parents, William and Janet (Banks) Sharp, spent their entire lives in Scotland. She was married, in that country, to Andrew Patrick, and in 1849 they came to the United States. Soon after establishing their home in Morris Mr. Patrick died. There was one child born of that union, a daughter, Janet B., now the wife of William Allan, the proprietor of the Carson House.

In politics Mr. Carson is a stanch Republican and has frequently been selected for important offices, but has always declined, preferring to devote his time and energies to the business interests. His wife belongs to the Presbyterian church, which they both attend regularly, contributing liberally to its support. Mr. Carson started out in life a poor man, but with the assistance of his estimable wife, who has indeed proved a helpmeet to him, he has steadily worked his way upward to a position of affluence. His business interests enabled him to form a wide acquaintance, with which his circle of friends is almost co-extensive. In manner genial, in disposition kindly, he won the regard of all with whom he came in contact and as a representative citizen of Morris he well deserves mention in this volume.

ALFRED MITTING.

The prosperity of a community depends upon its commercial interests, and the representative men of a town are those who are foremost in promoting its business affairs. Their energy and enterprise not only brings to them individual success but also enhances the general welfare, and thus they may be termed public benefactors. There are in all communities

Alfred Mitting

certain business interests which are not only a credit to the town but are also a matter of pride to its citizens, and such a one is that now controlled by Mr. Mitting, the well-known secretary and business manager of the Morris Floral Company. He first came to this city in 1876, and established his permanent residence here in 1893.

He was born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent county, England, March 4, 1858, and his parents, Robert and Lydia (Piper) Mitting, were both representatives of old English families. For many years his father has been engaged in flower culture, and at this writing, in 1900, is numbered among the leading florists of Ashurst, Kent, England. Thus in early life our subject became familiar with the business, gaining a thorough practical knowledge of the best methods of cultivation of plants. His ability in this direction has been the means of bringing to the Morris Floral Company the splendid success which has attended their enterprise. The school privileges which Mr. Mitting received in his youth were very limited, but to the knowledge gained in the school-room he has added by reading, observation and experience till he is now a well informed man. He was trained to habits of industry, economy and perseverance, and the development of such traits in his character have made him a splendid business man and have enabled him to successfully carry forward the various business undertakings with which he has been connected.

At the age of eighteen years Mr. Mitting came to America, at which time his uncle, Moses Britt, was residing upon a farm near Morris. Making his way to Grundy county he worked upon his uncle's farm for two years and then entered the employ of the late Judge Hopkins as a gardener and coachman. In August, 1879, he sustained a sunstroke and his health being thereby impaired he returned to England, where he remained till 1881. However, he had become greatly attached to the United States, and believing that this country afforded better opportunities than the Old World he once more boarded a western-bound steamer that brought him to American shores. After arriving in Morris he rented land of his uncle and engaged in gardening for one season. Through the succeeding two years he carried on general farming on rented land near Morris, and then spent four years in a flouring-mill in Newton, Kansas. At the expiration of that period he returned to Morris, where he engaged in farming on rented land through several summer seasons, while in the winter months he worked in flouring mills in Independence, Missouri; Kewatwen, Canada; Galveston, Texas; and Muskegon and Howland, Michigan.

On the 4th of March, 1893, he became a permanent resident of Morris, and since that year has been identified with the floral interests of this city. On the 7th of August the Morris Floral Company was organized by A.

Mitting, S. M. Underwood, C. D. Britt and Anna Goodenough. They began business on Canal street within the limits of the city and from the first success attended their enterprise. In April, 1897, the capital stock of the company was increased from one thousand and fifty dollars to fifteen thousand dollars, and six acres of land were purchased just east of the city limits, whereon a larger plant has been constructed consisting of a splendid greenhouse, with twenty thousand square feet under glass and well arranged rooms for office, storage and packing purposes. On the east side is a boiler-house, a brick building twenty-eight by thirty-five feet, equipped with two large boilers to heat the plant. Over ten thousand feet of pipe conveys the steam to the different departments, and a fine artesian well supplies the water for the plant, while in addition there are two large cisterns containing the rain-water from the roofs. A fine fish-pond has been arranged on the grounds and is supplied with water from the overflow of the well and cisterns. Graveled driveways have been constructed, and the entire plant is a model of its kind, being perfect in every department. Mr. Underwood is the president and treasurer of the company, while Mr. Mitting is secretary and manager. The latter is not only an excellent florist but is also a practical business man, and under his direction the company has enjoyed a steady increase of business from the beginning. They supply the city retail demands, but outside of Morris sell only to the wholesale trade, the yearly output being about one million plants, which are purchased by florists throughout the United States and Canada, and the company sustains a most enviable reputation on account of its reliability and the hardiness and excellent condition of the plants.

In 1890 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Mitting and Miss Ellen Griggs, a daughter of Jacob Griggs, one of the pioneer settlers of Morris. They now have one child, Ernest De Roo.

Mr. Mitting's hope of benefiting his financial condition in the New World has been more than realized, for he has not only secured a good living but has also acquired a handsome competence that numbers him among the substantial citizens of Morris. It is always a matter of satisfaction to know that success follows such honorable efforts as he has put forth, and to record the history of one whose example may well be followed by the younger generation.

ALBERT H. HOLDERMAN.

For more than ten years the subject of this sketch, Albert H. Holderman, has been one of the substantial and respected citizens of the town of

Morris, Illinois, he having moved here in 1888 from his farm a few miles distant.

Mr. Holderman is a native of LaSalle county, Illinois, having been born near Seneca, April 19, 1856, and is a son of Abram and Mary E. (Hoge) Holderman. During his childhood his parents removed to Erienna township, Grundy county, and his boyhood days were passed on his father's farm, his educational advantages being limited to the country schools. Farming has been his life occupation. He is the owner of considerable land, and resided on his farm until his removal to Morris, as above stated.

Mr. Holderman was married in 1884 to Miss Jennie Newport, a daughter of Addison and Julia (Nelson) Newport. Their union has been blessed in the birth of two children,—Charie and Ray, aged respectively thirteen and ten years.

The Republican party has received Mr. Holderman's support since he became a voter. He is, however, in no sense of the word a politician.

LEWIS SEEGAR.

Lewis Seegar, one of the prominent farmers of Good Farm township, Grundy county, Illinois, enjoys the distinction of having been one of those patriotic German-born citizens of the United States who at the time of our civil war risked his life in defense of the flag of his adopted country. The same warm, stirring German blood that made him a successful pioneer in a foreign land made him a good soldier, and it has animated him for a life struggle which has resulted in honor and good fortune.

Born in the village of Schimmershausen, Hesse-Cassel, August 27, 1838, he is a son of Henry Seegar, a native of Hesse-Cassel, who owned a farm of one hundred acres in Germany and was otherwise a well-to-do man. Henry Seegar was married twice, first to a Miss Plighing, who was the mother of five children: August, Annie, Lewis, Charles and Lizzie. Charles and Lizzie died young. Mrs. Seegar died in Germany, in 1841, when Lewis was but three years old. For his second wife Mr. Seegar married Elizabeth Hildebrand, who bore him children named Lizzie, Minnie, Philip and William. Mr. Seegar, who was a lifelong member of the Reformed church, was a son of Ludwig Seegar, a farmer who owned the Seegar home farm in Germany, which he bought with his own earnings, having been left with but one dollar as an inheritance. Henry Seegar, the father of Lewis, was pretty well educated, and in recognition of his excellent judgment he was made a magistrate. He came to America in 1856, bringing his family with him. They sailed from Bremen Haven about the middle of May, and

landed in New York, July 4. They came by rail to Joliet and Mr. Seegar made the journey on foot to Kankakee county, Illinois, to see Mr. Shafer, an old friend, who lived there. Mr. Seegar bought one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land near Norton, but lived on it only a few years, settling later in Franklin county, Iowa, on one hundred and sixty acres of land which he improved, and lived upon until his death, which occurred ten years later, about 1880, when he was aged about seventy-five years. He was a hard-working, enterprising, straightforward man, a Republican in politics, and in every sense of the term a good citizen. He had two sons in the federal army in our great war of the states,—Lewis and August, both in Company I, Seventy-sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. August served three years and was in all the battles of his regiment.

Lewis Seegar was brought up on a farm in Germany and was nineteen years of age when he came to America with his father, and has many interesting reminiscences of the journey. He found employment at farm work at Norton, Kankakee county, Illinois, for William Unz, with whom he remained five years. He enlisted for service in the United States Army at Kankakee, Illinois, and was enrolled January 29, 1864, as private of Company I, Seventy-sixth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years or during the war, and was honorably discharged August 18, 1865, at St. Louis, Missouri. He saw service in Virginia, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama, and took part in the fighting at Vicksburg, previous to its surrender, July 4, 1863, Champion Hills, Jackson's Cross Roads, Mississippi, Blakely, Alabama, and Port Hudson, Louisiana, July 8, 1863. He was twice grazed by bullets,—by one across the face, and another tore the clothing over his stomach, at the battle of Jackson's Cross Roads. Mr. Seegar was always an active soldier and was in all the campaigns, marches, battles and skirmishes of his regiment while in the service. He was sick with fever in the hospital at St. Louis for three weeks. After the war he returned to Kankakee county and farmed for himself for one year.

Mr. Seegar married, December 28, 1867, in Good Farm township, Margaret Haag, the widow of George Haag, nee Margaret Mier, born May 25, 1836, at Walkersdorf, Bion, Germany. Mrs. Seegar came to America in 1852 with her mother, Mrs. Barbara Mier, and her sister Lena, who later married Henry Numan, a substantial farmer of Grundy county. They sailed from Havre, France, in the good ship Barbara Morris, and were six weeks on the voyage to New York, from which city they came directly to Grundy county, Illinois. When Barbara was nineteen years old, in 1855, she married George Haag and they had children named Mary, Lena, Amelia, Fritz and John. Mr. Haag, who was a well-to-do farmer, owning one hundred and twenty acres of land, died August 14, 1866. He was a member of the

Evangelical church. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Seegar lived on the Haag farm until 1876, when they moved to their present farm, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, to which they have added by hard work, industry and good judgment until they now have an excellent farm of two hundred acres. Their children are Lizzie, Annie, Minnie, George and Frank. Mr. and Mrs. Seegar are both devout members of the Christian Catholic church.

In 1893 Mr. Seegar had two paralytic strokes and as a result he was helpless two years and had many dangerous spasms. The regular physicians did him no good, and he states that his condition grew so serious that he almost gave up in despair, when about three years ago he was entirely cured by his faith in Jesus Christ, through the teachings and prayers of John Alexander Dowie, of Chicago. This is one of the most remarkable cures on record and Mr. Seegar believes it to be of the same nature of those wrought by Jesus when he was on earth. Mr. Seegar was believed to be in a dying condition when, by faith alone, as he verily believes, he was entirely cured, and he is to-day a well, strong man for his age. He is a substantial farmer, a good citizen and a man of unquestionable veracity. His faithful wife and his family are truthful witnesses of his restoration to health, as are many of his neighbors, and all who know him rejoice at his deliverance, whether inclined to question its means or not. His life has been a busy and a useful one, and its successes have been won by honest effort. Such a man could hardly be spared by the community, for he has long occupied a place in it which it would be hard to fill. Mrs. Seegar has been a true helpmeet to him in every sense of the term, and they and their children are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.

WILLIAM STEPHEN.

To indulge in prolix encomium of a life which was eminently one of subjective modesty would be palpably incongruous, even though the record of good accomplished, of kindly deeds performed, and of high relative precedence attained might seem to justify the utterance of the glowing eulogy. He to whom this memoir is dedicated was a man who "stood four-square to every wind that blows," who was possessed with marked ability and who was vitally instinct with the deeper human sympathies; and yet who, during his long and useful life, avoided everything that partook of the nature of display or notoriety; and in this spirit would the biographist wish to have his utterances construed. For many years William Stephen was a well-known agriculturist of Grundy county, and on retiring to private life became

closely identified with the better interests of Morris, where he was known and honored as a valued citizen.

Of sturdy Scotch-Presbyterian stock, William Stephen was born upon his father's farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, May 26, 1817, and during his youth assisted in the development and cultivation of the fields. This practical training afterward stood him in good stead, when farming became the occupation whereby he sought a livelihood. His early educational privileges were such as were afforded by the common schools, but he early manifested a love of books, being especially fond of history. He also became greatly interested in the book of books, the Bible, from the reading of which he imbibed deep and well-founded religious impressions. He united with the church in youth and soon thereafter determined to prepare himself for the ministry. For several years he bent his strong will and splendid energies in that direction. He acquired a fair knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages and stored his mind with a fund of information that would have enabled him to expound clearly the truths of the Bible, but he became satisfied that nature had not designed him for the ministry on account of a lack of fluency in his utterances. He therefore abandoned his plan and apprenticed himself to a grocer, with whom he remained until twenty years of age.

At that time, acting on the advice of the late George Smith, for many years a leading banker of Chicago, Mr. Stephen came to the United States, arriving in Chicago, July 1, 1837, to find that Mr. Smith had returned to Scotland on a visit. His disappointment on not finding his friend was very great, but, fortified by strong resolution and inflexible will power, which never cowed in the presence of apparent danger or hardships, he started out to make his way in the New World unaided. He arrived in Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, July 8, 1837, friendless and poor, but soon secured work by the month and accumulated the means wherewith to purchase what was then known as a prairie team,—fourteen yoke of oxen, that is, a sufficient number of oxen to draw a prairie plow through the virgin soil. He then engaged in breaking prairie for others, and in that manner made his start in life. As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey he chose Miss Margaret Waterman, the wedding being celebrated February 27, 1843. He then began farming in Kendall county, and as the result of his industry and enterprise he came into possession of a large farm at Big Grove, which he transformed into rich and fertile fields. He successfully operated it for a number of years, and in 1869 purchased the fine farm now occupied by his son, Charles M., two miles northwest of Morris, and took possession thereof, but still retained his Kendall county farm. His health partially failing,

W. C. Stutsman M. D.

he resolved to lay aside the more arduous cares of business life and removed to Morris, where he lived retired until called to the home beyond.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen was blessed with the following children: William I., now a resident of Omaha, Nebraska; Hester E., deceased; Amelia A., deceased wife of Aaron Howe; Merritt J., of Morris; Ella P., the widow of C. G. Collins, of Omaha; Charles M., who is farming on the old homestead near Morris; Ada H., who died at the age of fourteen; Helen I., the wife of A. E. Cagwin, of Chicago; Mrs. Hettie J. Page, of Omaha; and Fred L., of Morris.

In the days of his vigorous manhood Mr. Stephen eschewed politics and would never accept office other than assessor, commissioner of highways, school director, etc. After coming to Morris he served for several years as justice of the peace, school director and alderman, discharging his duties with marked promptness and fidelity. Though reared in the Presbyterian faith he never liked its church government, and in 1854 united with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife had been a member from the age of fifteen years. He was from that time until his death most active in its work and contributed not a little to its upbuilding. He served as a class-leader, as a superintendent or teacher in the Sunday-school, as trustee, and at all times did everything in his power to promote the cause of Christianity among men. His character was above reproach and he was held in the greatest respect by his neighbors. His word was as good as any bond that was ever solemnized by signature or seal, and his integrity was unassailable.

> "His life was noble, and the elements
> So mixed in him that nature might stand up
> And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

Mr. Stephen died May 18, 1889, and his widow, who was born in New York in 1825, survived him a little more than a decade, passing away in death in February, 1900. She was ever a faithful companion and helpmeet, and was loved and esteemed by all who knew her.

MYRON CURTIS STURTEVANT, M. D.

For more than a quarter of a century Dr. Sturtevant has engaged in the practice of medicine in Morris, and his success is attributable to his thorough understanding of the principles of medicine and to his ability in administering the various medicinal remedies in relief of the suffering of his patients. The Doctor is a native of Massachusetts, his birth having oc-

curred in Lowell, January 12, 1835. His parents were Cyrus and Rhoda (Harvey) Sturtevant, the former a native of Maine and the latter of Vermont. Both were representatives of old English families, but the father was of Holland lineage, while the mother was of English descent. Cyrus Sturtevant made carpentering his life work. In 1838 he removed with his family from the Bay state to Cleveland, Ohio, where for a number of years he conducted a lumber-yard and operated a planing-mill.

The Doctor was a mere child when he accompanied his parents to the west. He was making good progress in school when his father's planing-mill burned, and such was the financial loss to the family that he was obliged to abandon his studies and enter business life. He had attended Oberlin College and Cleveland University, and had taken two courses in the Homeopathic Medical College of Cleveland. In 1855 his parents decided to come to Illinois and accordingly took up their abode in Wheaton, but his father was in poor health and did not remain long in the city, soon removing to a farm in Ogle county, Illinois. In the family were two children, the Doctor and a sister, Jennie L. From Ogle county, the parents removed to Wisconsin, and there the daughter was married to Rev. Asher W. Curtis, who was located in Crete, Nebraska. At that time Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Sturtevant also went to Crete, Nebraska, where the father's death occurred. The mother afterward accompanied her daughter to Raleigh, North Carolina, to which place Mr. Curtis was called by the church of his denomination. In that city Mrs. Sturtevant died, but Mrs. Curtis is still living there.

The Doctor accompanied his parents on their various removals until after they went to Nebraska, when he decided to return to Cleveland and again entered the Western Homeopathic Medical College of that place. Completing a thorough course of study, he was graduated in that institution in the class of 1866. He had practiced medicine in Ogle county for a short time before he returned to the medical college, and after his graduation he located in Emerald Grove, Rock county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in practice for about seven years. It was in the year 1872 that Dr. Sturtevant came to Morris, where he has since resided and now enjoys a large and lucrative practice, and is accorded a leading place in the ranks of the medical fraternity. He holds a membership in both the Illinois State Homeopathic Medical Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy.

In 1859 the Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Pearlie E. Boynton. Their only child, Wilbur, died at the age of twenty-four years. The Doctor and his wife hold a membership in the Congregational church and take an active part in its work, doing all in their power to promote its interests. In social circles they hold an enviable position, and their own home is noted for its generous hospitality.

FRED L. STEPHEN.

Fred L. Stephen, a member of the Morris Lumber Company, is one of the native sons of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Kendall county on the 19th of June, 1864. His youth was spent on his father's farm, and to the common-school system of the county he is indebted for the educational privileges which he received. On entering upon his business career he became a butcher and for three years conducted a store in Morris. In the latter part of 1897 he became a member of the Morris Lumber Company, the partners in which are Fred L. Stephen and C. B. Moore. They have a large lumber-yard and receive from the public a liberal patronage, which is well merited, for their business methods are honorable, and it is their earnest desire to please their customers.

In 1888 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Stephen and Miss Laura Hoge, of Morris, and their union has been blessed with one daughter, named Vivian. Mr. Stephen votes with the Republican party, and is a Mason, having attained the Knight Templar degree in the fraternity. As a business man he is wide-awake, progressive and enterprising, and by the careful conduct of his interests has secured a creditable success and will no doubt gain greater prosperity in the future.

JOHN RAY.

John Ray, who is engaged in the livery business at Morris, Illinois, is a German by birth, but was reared and educated in this country, and is thoroughly identified with American interests. A brief sketch of his life is as follows:

John Ray was born in Germany, June 16, 1846, a son of William and Annetta (Stine) Ray. His parents emigrated with their family to this country in 1851 and made their first settlement in Allegany county, New York, where they resided until October, 1853. At that time they came west to Grundy county, Illinois, and located on a farm in Felix township. Here they made their home for a number of years up to 1894, when they removed to Will county, Illinois. At the latter place the father died, in 1895, at the age of seventy-three years. He had been a farmer all his life, was successful in his operations, and by his honorable and upright life won the confidence and respect of all who knew him. The wife and mother is still living, a resident of Morris. Their family consists of two sons and two daughters.

At the time the Ray family removed to Grundy county, Illinois, John was a boy of eight years. He was reared on his father's farm and was him-

self engaged in farming operations until he was twenty-six years of age. Then he turned his attention to merchandising, in Diamond, where he was in business three years, at the end of that time selling out to the Chicago, Wilmington Coal & Manufacturing Company, and for the next seven years and a half managed the store for them. At the end of that time he went to Braidwood, where he was engaged in business until the fall of 1898. September 5 of that year he came to Morris and has since conducted his present livery business.

Mr. Ray was married in 1870 to Miss Mary Reardon, a daughter of Captain William Reardon. They have had one child, a daughter, that died at the age of nine years.

For a period of twenty-four years Mr. Ray has been identified with the Masonic order. He has received the various degrees of that ancient order up to and including that of Knight Templar. His political affiliations are with the Republican party.

MERRITT J. STEPHEN.

Merritt J. Stephen was born August 2, 1849, in Kendall county, Illinois. His father, William Stephen, is now deceased. His boyhood days were spent in the usual manner of farmer lads, his time being devoted to the labor of the fields, in studying in the common schools and in the pleasures of the play-ground. On attaining his majority he resolved to try his fortune in the west and went to Denver, Colorado, where he spent two years. At the expiration of that period he returned to Morris, where he was engaged in the live-stock business for five or six years. He then went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he engaged in the same business for about six years. Again coming to Morris, he has since made his home in this city.

Mr. Stephen gives his political support to the Republican party, and is a prominent Mason, having attained the Knight Templar degree. He is also a member of the Mystic Shrine, and is highly esteemed in the craft as well as in business and social circles.

F. S. SCHOENLEBER, M. S. A., D. O., D. V. S.

One of the most efficient and capable representatives of his profession is Dr. Schoenleber, who is now engaged in practice in Morris. He was born in Allen township, LaSalle county, Illinois, August 6, 1862, and is a son of Jacob and Louisa (Saemisch) Schoenleber. His parents were natives of

Germany, but were married in Livingston county, Illinois, and located in Allen township, where the father became a prosperous farmer. He died at the age of seventy-one years, in 1896, but his widow still survives and is now living in Ransom, Illinois. They became the parents of six children who grew to years of maturity: Lewis K., Julia, Mary A., Francis S., John J. and Emma L. The youngest son is now deceased.

The Doctor was reared on his father's farm, and in the public schools acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the Morris Normal. He afterward engaged in teaching for two years in Nettle Creek township, Grundy county. He then entered the Iowa State Agricultural College, at Ames, where he was graduated in 1885. He also took a post-graduate degree in the same institution in 1887; and his ability and standing are indicated by the fact that in 1885 he was appointed by the board of trustees to the position of farm foreman. He had previously won high rank as an educator, having been principal of the Ransom schools in 1884-85, while at the time of his graduation in the agricultural college he was holding the position of professor of German and natural science in the Norton Normal and Scientific Academy at Wilton Junction, Iowa. Three months after his graduation he resigned that position in order to accept the one proffered him by his alma mater. In 1888 he became associate editor of the Orange Judd Farmer, one of the leading agricultural journals of the country, published in Chicago,—which journal was founded by Orange Judd, also the founder of the American Agriculturist. Dr. Schoenleber continued his connection with that paper until 1890, and during the winter of 1889-90 he took a course in the Chicago Veterinary College, in which he was graduated. In the spring of 1890 the Doctor came to Morris, where he has practiced veterinary surgery; but during a portion of the years 1890-91 he was in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1896 he was appointed to the chair of anatomy and histology in McKillip's Veterinary College, of Chicago, which position he now holds, and in that institution he has also been dean since 1897. For the past two years he has been assistant state veterinarian, and his marked ability has gained him a rank second to none in the circles of the profession. In the winter of 1898-99, in order to gain a still greater knowledge of the science of medicine, he pursued the sophomore course in Bennett Medical College, of Chicago.

In 1891 Dr. Schoenleber formed a partnership with G. R. Savage and opened a livery stable in Morris. The following year he purchased his partner's interest and has since conducted the business alone. In 1895 he erected a new stable and built an addition to it in 1899, and now has a fine large barn. In 1898 he leased this to John Ray. In August, 1899, he was offered the position of dean of the veterinary school of the National Medical

University, at Chicago. Resigning his position at the McKillip College, he took up the work of organizing the above school, at the same time taking his junior year in the medical school of the university, with the course in osteopathy, thus investigating the different systems of medicine,—allopathic, homeopathic, eclectic and osteopathic. He is also registered in Illinois as an osteopath.

In 1892 the Doctor married Lillian M. Miller, a daughter of T. W. and Abbie Miller, of Grundy county. He is quite active in social circles, being a Knights Templar Mason, a member of the Knights of the Globe, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In his professional career he has achieved most gratifying success, steadily working his way upward until he ranks among the foremost representatives of the profession of veterinary surgery. In manner he is pleasant and genial and his many excellent qualities have endeared him to a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

HENRY NEWMAN.

The man whose name appears above has in his busy and useful career demonstrated the value of self-reliance. He began life without capital; he earned capital and put it to good use. He improved opportunity after opportunity as it presented itself and rose from poverty to affluence, from obscurity to prominence in the community. He fought a good fight, and he fought it gallantly and persistently and won a victory over every obstacle that he encountered.

Henry Newman, of Au Sable township, Grundy county, who is numbered among the well-known German-American citizens of this county, was born at Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, January 6, 1825, a son of John Newman, who was the father of three sons and two daughters, of whom Henry is the only one who came to America and is the only one now living. His brothers were named Casper and Louis Newman. The subject of this notice grew to manhood in his native country, and in accordance with the requirements in Germany he served three years in the army. His army career was during the troublous times of 1848 and 1849, in which German history was made with great rapidity.

In 1850 Mr. Newman left his native land for America. Landing at the port of New York, he went thence to Buffalo, in the same state, where he remained for a time, working at whatever he found to do. From Buffalo he continued his way westward, going to Cleveland by way of Lake Erie and thence to Fort Wayne, Indiana. There he had a chance to work on the

railroad at fifty cents a day and board, or seventy-five cents and board himself. He chose the latter proposition and remained there until the following spring, when he continued his travels westward, with Chicago as his objective point.

That was half a century ago, and Chicago, now a great city, was but a small town, over which Mr. Newman says he could have traveled in half a day. But Chicago had no attractions for the young man, and he soon made his way out into the country and down to the vicinity of his place of settlement. He kept at work until he had accumulated money enough to buy some land, and in 1864 he settled on his present farm in Grundy county.

In March, 1854, Mr. Newman was married to Miss Rose Anna Magdalena Hirsch, who was born in Germany, where her father died, and who came to America with her mother and sister in 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have had seven children, five of whom, named as follows, are living: Mary, George, Henry E., Lizzie Ann, and Carrie M. Their children who died were named Adeline and John.

Mr. Newman began life poor, and, as has been seen, he purchased his first land with money that he earned by manual labor. He now has a fine farm and is one of the substantial farmers of Au Sable township. He has an intelligent and esteemed family, all members of which are members of the Au Sable Methodist Episcopal church, to the support of which and of all its interests he has long been a liberal contributor. There is no local movement that in his opinion tends to enhance the general welfare that he does not indorse and aid to the extent of his ability. His kindliness is apparent to all who know him and more than one person has found in him such a "friend in need" as is truly a "friend indeed."

URIAH C. DAVIS.

The mercantile interests of Morris are well represented by Uriah C. Davis, furniture dealer and undertaker. He owns and conducts a large and well-equipped store and possesses the essential characteristics of a successful business career. A native of Kendall county, Illinois, he was born November 15, 1852, and is a son of Phineas Davis, a retired farmer now residing in Morris. The father was born in Livingston county, New York, January 24, 1827, and in 1847, when twenty years of age, came to Illinois, locating in Kendall county, where he purchased a farm upon which he made his home for twenty-seven years. In 1874 he took up his abode in Morris, and is now accounted one of the respected citizens of this place. He was married January 22, 1848, to Maria L. Phipps, who was born in New Jer-

sey in 1822 and died in 1879, leaving two sons,—James and Uriah C. In 1881 the father again married, his second union being with Sally C. Frasee, widow of Barnard Frasee.

Upon the homestead farm Uriah C. Davis spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and as soon as old enough to handle the plow began to assist in the improvement of the fields and in the cultivation of the crops. He was provided with excellent educational privileges and is a graduate of both the Fowler Institute and the Morris Normal. He also attended the Illinois State Normal for a time and successfully engaged in teaching for four years, being principal of the Mazon schools for two and a half years. In 1881, however, he abandoned that profession and embarked in his present business in partnership with W. R. Cody. In 1885 his brother, James L., purchased an interest in the business, and in 1887 the Davis brothers bought out the interest of Mr. Cody. This partnership was continued till 1892, when our subject became sole proprietor. He has conducted his store with signal success, having a large and complete stock of furniture of modern design, calculated to meet the varied tastes of the public. He has built up an excellent trade and also has a liberal patronage in the undertaking department. He is a graduate of two schools for embalming, the Sullivan and the Hoenschau. He is regarded as the most skilled undertaker in Morris.

In 1881 Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Nellie F. Cody, and their union has been blest with three children: Edith, William and Ralph. In his political views Mr. Davis is a Republican, and for four years served as an alderman of the city. He is now the secretary of the Morris Commercial Club, is an official member of the Methodist church and belongs to the order of Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In all the relations of life he is true to every duty devolving upon him, and his career has been an upright and honorable one. The success which he has achieved has been gained by close application to business combined with sound judgment and capable management. He is regarded as one of the leading and influential citizens of his adopted county, and it is with pleasure that we present the record of his life to our readers.

THOMAS H. HALL.

Among the most loyal of the citizens of Morris are many who are numbered among the native sons of Illinois. This number includes Mr. Hall, an enterprising dry-goods merchant, who was born in the city which is still his home, December 17, 1862. His parents, Francis and Margaret (Rankin)

John G. Horrie

Hall, were both natives of Scotland. In the year 1855 the father came to the United States, and was married in Sycamore, Illinois.

Thomas H. Hall was reared in Morris and to its public-school system he is indebted for his education. He entered upon his business career as a grocer's clerk at the age of eighteen, but soon accepted the position of salesman in the dry-goods store of C. S. Beach & Sons, where he remained for six years, a most trusted and faithful employe. During that time he applied himself most diligently to the work, mastering the business in every detail; and when, in connection with George Winsor, on the 1st of May, 1886, he bought out his employers, he was well fitted to carry on the store. Under the firm name of Winsor & Hall, the dry-goods business was conducted until the 1st of March, 1890, when Mr. Hall became sole proprietor. He has since been alone in business and to-day he ranks among the leading merchants of his native town, being the owner of a large double store which is fully stocked with dry-goods, notions and carpets. In 1892 he added a millinery department and each branch of the business receives a liberal patronage.

An important event in the life of Mr. Hall occurred in the spring of 1892, when was celebrated his marriage to Lena Gebhard, a daughter of Louis Gebhard, of Morris. They have a pleasant home and enjoy the friendship of many of the best citizens of Grundy county. Mr. Hall is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He has taken no active part in political affairs, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he is meeting with a very creditable success. He commands the public confidence by his straightforward methods and his uniform courtesy, and therefore receives the public patronage.

JOHN C. HORRIE.

John C. Horrie is numbered among the active and enterprising business men of Morris, and the success he has achieved in life is due entirely to his own well directed efforts. He was born in this city, January 23, 1865, his parents being James and Catherine (Anderson) Horrie. His father was born on the Orkney islands, off Scotland, September 27, 1827, and in his native land was reared and educated, there serving an apprenticeship of four years at the blacksmith trade. On attaining his majority, he determined to try his fortune in the New World, hoping thereby to better his financial condition in this land which affords superior advantages to young men of ambition and determination. Accordingly he crossed the Atlantic and in 1848 took up his residence in Morris, where he began business as

a blacksmith and carriage manufacturer, continuing active operations in that line until within a few days of his death, which occurred October 11, 1896. His shop was located on Canal street and is now owned and operated by his son, Robert C.

On the 20th of August, 1850, James Horrie was united in marriage to Catherine Anderson, also a native of Scotland, born February 20, 1828. She is now residing in Morris and has attained her seventy-second year. By her marriage she became the mother of eight children, namely: James A.; Jane, the widow of W. C. Handwork; Robert C.; Joseph W.; Catherine A.; William J.; John C.; and Minnie, the wife of Claud Magner. In early life the parents of these children became members of the Presbyterian church and always took an active part in its work and upbuilding. They commanded the respect of all who knew them and had a large circle of friends in Morris and Grundy county.

John C. Horrie spent his boyhood days under the parental roof, his time being occupied with play and work and with study in the public schools. In his youth he learned the jewelry business, which he has followed in his own interest since 1891. He has a good store, well equipped with everything found in a first-class establishment of the kind; and the excellent line of goods which he carries, together with his fair dealing and uniform courtesy, has secured to him a very liberal patronage. He now has the largest trade in Morris and his success is the legitimate reward of his labors.

In his political views Mr. Horrie has always been a Democrat, and at the age of twenty-one years was elected alderman of the Third ward, the largest ward in the city. Socially he is a Royal Arch and Knight Templar Mason, and is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. In 1895 was celebrated his marriage to Miss Annie L. Zabriskie of St. Charles, Illinois. He is a popular citizen, public-spirited and progressive, and in the community where his entire life has been passed has gained a large circle of friends.

ORION R. HIGHT.

The prosperous town of Morris, Illinois, has its share of enterprising business men, and occupying a representative position among them is Orion R. Hight, personal mention of whom is of interest in this work by reason of his being both a veteran of the civil war and a leading citizen of the town in which he lives.

Orion R. Hight was born in Steuben county, New York, December 13, 1835, and is descended from English ancestors who were among the

early settlers of New Jersey. It was in colonial days that the Hight family was established on the Atlantic coast, and from New Jersey they have scattered to various portions of the United States. John Nicholas Hight, the grandfather of Orion R., was born in Bedminster, New Jersey, January 9, 1756, and died in Steuben county, New York, October 15, 1850. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Hannah Savidge, were the parents of a large family of children, including the following: David, Deborah, Betsey, William S., Nicholas, Annie, Susanna and Rachel S., and two daughters that died in infancy. William S. Hight was born in New Jersey, January 16, 1787, and died in New York, April 24, 1855. His wife, nee Phebe Wilson, was a native of Long Island. Their children in order of birth were as follows: Sarah Ann, deceased; Nicholas F., deceased; Jeannette, deceased; Nancy, deceased; Barclay, deceased; John N., of Schuyler county, New York; Susan, deceased; Mary C., a resident of Michigan; Orion R., the direct subject of this sketch; and Rachel, a resident of Michigan.

Orion R. Hight spent the first twenty-one years of his life in his native county in the Empire state. His educational advantages did not extend beyond the common schools, and when he started out in life on his own account he had no financial assistance. At the age of twenty-one he went to Michigan, where he remained sixteen years, and whence, January 1, 1873, he came to Morris, Illinois, which has since been his home. When a youth he learned the trade of shoemaker, beginning the same at the age of fifteen and becoming a fine workman, and after his location in Michigan he was for a time engaged in the shoe business and later kept a hotel. In Morris he opened a shoe store and dealt in shoes exclusively from the time of his location here until 1882, since which time he has kept a general store. His career as a business man has been successful. As already stated, he started out in life a poor young man, and that he has made a success in life and accumulated a competency is due to his own industry and good management.

At the time the civil war was inaugurated Mr. Hight was a resident of Michigan. His father had been a soldier in the war of 1812 and participated in the battle of Black Rock; and his grandfather, a Revolutionary soldier, had fought on the Princeton battle-fields; and when the civil-war cloud gathered and burst upon the country Orion R. Hight, with the patriotism of his forefathers, offered his services to the Union. He enlisted October 14, 1861, in Company H, Twelfth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, as a private, was mustered in as second sergeant; and was honorably discharged July 11, 1862. Among the battles in which he participated was that of Shiloh.

Mr. Hight was married July 4, 1857, at Lawton, Michigan, to Elizabeth M. Smith, a native of Wayne county, that state, and to them have been

born three children, two of whom are deceased. Their son, Orion R., Jr., was born in 1865.

Mr. Hight casts his vote and influence with the Republican party, and is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for a period of thirty-eight years and has been prominently identified with Oddfellowship, having passed all the chairs in his local lodge and served officially in the grand lodge of the state.

JOHN NELSON.

For a third of a century John Nelson has been a resident of Grundy county, and through the greater part of that period has been associated with its commercial interests, but is now living retired from the active cares of business life. Success is not a matter of genius or of chance, but results from earnest application, steadfast purpose and unfaltering industry,—all of which are numbered among the characteristics of Mr. Nelson. It was those qualities which brought to him his comfortable surroundings and won him his present position among the substantial citizens of Morris.

Mr. Nelson came to Grundy county in 1866 from Belmont county, Ohio, where he was born March 4, 1819, upon a farm about two and one-half miles west of Wheeling, West Virginia. His parents, Robert and Mary S. (McGregor) Nelson, were of Scotch lineage. The former was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and the latter near Baltimore, Maryland. The paternal grandfather of our subject was an early settler of Wheeling and a man of considerable prominence, his name appearing on the petition to the governor of Virginia for the incorporation of Wheeling as a village. The parents of our subject were married in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1817, and there spent the residue of their days, the father developing a good farm in the midst of the wilderness and transforming the wild land into richly cultivated fields. Of the nine children in his family only two are now living, —John and Robert,—the latter residing on the old homestead in the Buckeye state. These sons were the eldest of the family, and the younger members who are now deceased are Elizabeth, Mathew, Thomas, Alexander, Franklin, Margaret and James.

Upon the old homestead farm John Nelson spent his boyhood days, working in field and meadow through the summer months, while in the winter season he pursued his education in the public schools. He assisted in the farm work until twenty-five years of age, when he went to Bridgeport, Ohio, and engaged in the lumber business, carrying on operations there in

that line until 1866, when he sold his lumber-yard and came to Morris. Here he resumed business in the same line, and was a successful lumber merchant of Grundy county until 1887, when he retired to private life. During this period he was associated with several partners, and throughout his connection with the lumber trade he enjoyed a good business and met with prosperity. His business methods commended him to the confidence and respect of the public, and his name was a synonym for commercial integrity.

In Bridgeport, Ohio, Mr. Nelson was married, in 1856, wedding Helen Adams, who bore him a daughter, Gertrude L., and passed away in death in 1858. Soon after his arrival in Morris Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth T. Campbell, and there were born two daughters,—Mary C. and Emeline M. The latter is the wife of Dr. W. E. Walsh, of Morris. Mrs. Nelson, a most estimable lady, was called to her final rest in 1890.

Mr. Nelson has never aspired to political honors, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests; yet he has always kept well informed on the issues and questions of the day, being thereby enabled to give an intelligent support to the political principles in which he believes are contained the best elements of government. He cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, and supported the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks. He has voted at fifteen presidential elections and has ever had the courage of his convictions. In early manhood he became a member of the Presbyterian church and has lived a consistent Christian life in harmony with his belief and professions. The sterling qualities of an upright character have brought to him the trust and friendship of many with whom he has come in contact, and he well deserves mention among the honored and representative citizens of his adopted country.

J. N. BUNNELL.

One of the representative citizens of Morris is the gentleman whose name introduces this review, and who in his business and political associations has won the respect and confidence of the entire community. Many of the strongest characters of the nation have come from New England, and it is an indisputable fact that no other section of the country has shown more ingenuity, enterprise and diligence than are found in the New England portion of this republic.

Mr. Bunnell is a native of New England and possesses the sterling traits of character which distinguish his fellow citizens of that most civilized section of Christendom. He was born in Colebrook, Litchfield county, Con-

necticut, September 5, 1827, his parents being Willis and Elizabeth (Harger) Bunnell. They also were natives of Connecticut, were married there and made their home in the Nutmeg state until about 1844, when they removed to Delhi, Delaware county, New York, and there they spent their remaining days. Both have now passed away. They had a son and daughter, J. N. and Elizabeth, the latter now a widow, residing in New York city.

Mr. Bunnell, of this sketch, acquired an academic education, and at the age of twenty-five years was graduated at Berkshire Medical College, at Pittsfield, Massachusetts; but, preferring to enter upon a career in the commercial world, he never actively engaged in the practice of medicine. Going to New York city he became a salesman in a wholesale millinery establishment, and later entered the employ of a book house. Following this he was a member of the publishing firm of Bunnell & Price, which remained in business two years, when a fire destroyed their entire store. Their loss was so great that they could not resume business. During its existence the firm owned and published the New York Pickayune, a humorous sheet, which they sold just previous to the fire. For a short time after this disaster Mr. Bunnell operated under a contract, handling all the newspapers of New York which were sold in California. This was before the era of railroads to the Pacific coast and papers were shipped by way of Panama every two weeks. From his youth Mr. Bunnell has displayed considerable mechanical ability, turning wood and doing job work in that line in Connecticut. In that business he continued for about fifteen years, and in 1861 he secured a government contract to furnish gun-stocks. The life of the contract was two years, during which time he faithfully fulfilled his part and received for the goods one hundred thousand dollars. His next venture, however, was an unprofitable one. He organized a stock company, thinking to conduct the wood-turning business on a much larger scale, but the stockholders were unprincipled and forced him out of the business.

He then returned to New York city, where he was variously employed for a considerable time. He acted as superintendent of agencies for Connecticut as the representative of the Equitable Life Insurance Company, with headquarters at Hartford, and later held a similar connection with the Globe Life Insurance Company, his territory being Massachusetts, with Boston as his headquarters. Through the succeeding five years Mr. Bunnell, in connection with a partner, conducted a jewelry business in Newark, New Jersey, but the adventure was attended with indifferent success.

Entering the employ of the Straw Lumber Company, of New York city, Mr. Bunnell was sent to Lawrence, Kansas, in charge of the company's factory at that place. Six months later, in 1884, acting on the advice of Mr. Bunnell, the factory was removed to Long Island City, and later a factory

was built at Cohoes, New York, of which he was made the manager. In 1887 he entered the employ of the Allen Paper Car Wheel Company, of New York, which sent him to Morris, Illinois, placing him in charge of its factory at this place. This position he held for twelve years, or until the factory was closed in 1899. In the spring of 1898 the Morris plumbing establishment of Bunnell & McNanly was opened and our subject is now in the plumbing and heating business. The firm receives a liberal patronage and their trade is now quite extensive.

Mr. Bunnell has been twice married. In 1858 he married Mary Beecher, who was a member of a branch of the Henry Ward Beecher family, and a native of Connecticut. She died in 1891, leaving a son, Charles B., an artist of considerable ability, residing in Roseville, New Jersey. In 1892 Mr. Bunnell was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Eliza Marsh, of Newark, New Jersey. In his political views he has always been a stanch Republican in his allegiance to the party and its principles. While in Connecticut he was elected to the state legislature, in the fall of 1860, and during his service the assembly voted two million dollars for the prosecution of the war. He has been an active factor in local political interests in Morris, served as a member of the city council for five years, and in the spring of 1897 was elected mayor for a two-years term. His administration was progressive and businesslike, and he has ever exercised his official prerogatives to advance the welfare and progress of the city. While serving as a member of the Morris city council Mr. Bunnell was very active and untiring in his efforts to secure water-works for Morris; served as the chairman of the water-works committee, and, being a prime mover in the effort, much credit is due him for securing to the city its present magnificent waterworks. Fraternally he is a Knight Templar Mason and enjoys the high regard of his brethren of the craft. His business career has been a checkered one, yet through it all he has maintained an unassailable reputation for integrity and straightforward dealing. His pleasant, genial manner has won him many friends, and he is accounted one of the popular citizens of Grundy county.

JOHN B. SCHRODER.

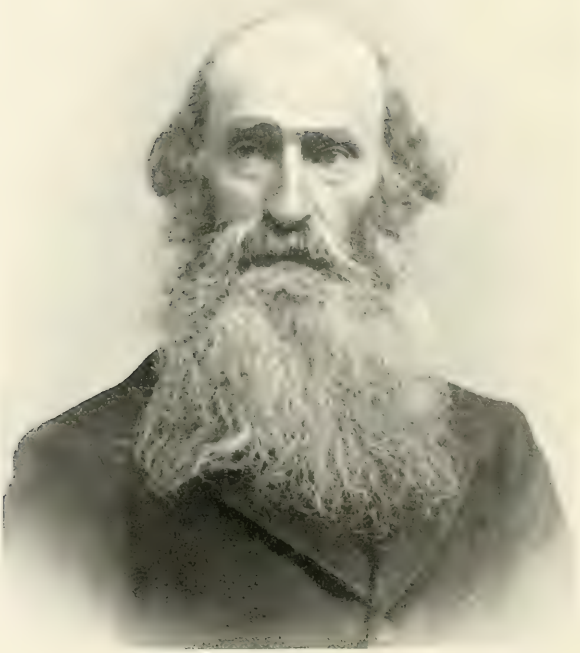
No one in Grundy county has so long held the office of sheriff as John B. Schroder, which fact stands in unmistakable evidence of his capability and fidelity to duty. Utterly fearless in the discharge of the obligations devolving upon him, he performed every task readily and resolutely and his service won the highest commendation. It brought a sense of safety to the law-abiding citizens and of terror to the law-breakers, and continually he

was chosen for the office till his length of service exceeded that of any other incumbent.

Mr. Schroder is a native of Germany and manifests the marked characteristics of the Teutonic race, being persevering, intelligent and faithful in all things. He was born in Manheim, Baden, Germany, March 23, 1832. His parents, Adam and Eva (Mansengab) Schroder, spent their entire lives in the Fatherland, the latter dying at the age of forty years, the former at the age of eighty-four years. By occupation he was a farmer and followed that pursuit in support of his family. His five children were Elizabeth, Margaret, Barbara, Nicholas and John B. Nicholas came to the United States in 1852, and now resides in Kansas.

John B. Schroder was reared in Germany and acquired a good education in the common schools. For five years he served in the German army as a cavalryman, and for three years of that period was riding instructor. As a member of the military organization of the Fatherland he took part in many public celebrations. At length he determined to try his fortune in America, and in 1855, bidding adieu to home and friends, he sailed for the New World, joining his brother in Elgin, Kane county, Illinois. There he opened a harness shop, having learned the trade in the land of his nativity. In 1858 he and his brother went to Pike's Peak in search of gold. He started with one thousand and five hundred dollars and returned with twenty dollars, so that the trip was not a very profitable one to him. He made the journey by way of Atchison, Kansas, whence he proceeded to his destination with an ox team and wagon.

Upon his return to Illinois in 1859, Mr. Schroder located in Grundy county, where he has since made his home. He took up his abode in Minooka, where he opened a harness shop, which he conducted until 1866. During the war he served as deputy sheriff and constable, and in that capacity did much to aid the government to locate deserters. In 1866 he was elected county sheriff on the Republican ticket and served for two years. The law forbidding a man to serve immediately a second term, he retired from office in 1868, but in 1870 was again elected, and, the law having in the meantime been changed, was re-elected for each successive term till 1880. In that year he went to Kansas, where he purchased a large farm, but after running it for a year he sold it and returned to Illinois. For one year he remained in Chicago and then again came to Morris, where he conducted a harness shop for about two years. In 1886, 1888, 1894 and 1896 he was again elected sheriff, thus holding the office altogether twenty years. His service was often dangerous, but at no time did he shrink from the faithful discharge of his duty. On the 17th of October, 1890, he hanged one James Maxwell for murder. In 1867 he went to Maine, where he secured a mur-



Jacob M. Griggs

derer, three years after the deed had been committed, spending forty days in locating the man in the Pine Tree state. This and many other occurrences brought him an excellent reputation, and people of all parties commended his efficiency and ability.

In 1858 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Schroder and Miss Josephine Fessler, who was born in France. They have three children: John B., of San Francisco, California; Josephine, the wife of John H. Francis, Jr., of Peoria; and Adelheit, the wife of William Gebhardt, of Morris. The children were provided with excellent educational privileges, and the daughters are especially proficient in music, being fine vocalists. In his political affiliations Mr. Schroder has always been a stanch Republican. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and since 1866 has been a representative of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained the Knight Templar degree. For forty years he has resided in Grundy county, and perhaps no man within its borders is more widely or favorably known. He well deserves mention in this volume, and with pleasure we present the record of his life to our readers.

JACOB M. GRIGGS.

There are few residents of Grundy county whose arrival within its borders antedates that of Mr. Griggs, for through fifty-three years he has made his home here and has been actively associated with the business interests which contribute to the material prosperity and welfare of the county. He was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of April, 1829, his parents being Peter and Catherine (Moore) Griggs, who also were natives of the Keystone state, the father being of English lineage, while the mother was of Dutch descent. The grandfather of our subject was John Griggs, a native of Philadelphia, and the great-grandfather was Dr. John Griggs, who was born in England and became the founder of the family in the New World. He crossed the Atlantic to the United States, taking up his residence in Philadelphia, and the various generations of the family since that time have been represented in the Keystone state. Peter Griggs, the father of our subject, was a farmer by occupation, and in 1836 he made his way westward to Grundy county, pre-empting canal land, on a part of which is now located the present town of Morris. He then returned to the east, and the following year brought his family to the new home. He lived less than ten years after his removal to this county, but his wife survived many years, passing away at the very advanced age of eighty-four. She was a second time married. Jacob M. was the second in order of birth in a family of eight children, six of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Mary, Jacob M., Priscilla, John, Henry and Wilson.

Mr. Griggs, of this review, was only eight years of age when his parents came to Grundy county, where he has resided continuously since. He was reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier, and with the family experienced all the hardships and trials incident to frontier life. He obtained his education in the district schools and attended the first public school held in Morris, his teacher being his aunt, Miss Eliza Griggs. He also aided in building the second house in Morris. Through the years of his minority he assisted in the work of the home farm, and after arriving at man's estate he began farming on his own account. He has always carried on agricultural pursuits, although interested at various times for brief periods in other business enterprises, including the manufacture of tiling, the grocery business and general teaming. Farming, however, has been his chief occupation in life, and through his close application, untiring industry and capable management he has met with very creditable success and is now the owner of three valuable farms, two being located in Grundy county, while one is situated in Iowa. He also owns considerable town property. He certainly deserves great credit for the success which he has achieved in life, and has justly won the proud American title of a self-made man.

In 1861 Mr. Griggs was united in marriage to Miss Emma E. Cochran, who was born in New York and came to Grundy county during her early girlhood with her parents, Samuel and Hannah Cochran. Mr. and Mrs. Griggs now have eight children, namely: Siegle A., Henry Beecher, Helen Jeanette, Minnie May, Bert Watson, Archie Ray, Grace G. and Lillie Mabel.

In early life Mr. Griggs served as constable and town collector. In politics he has long been a supporter of the Republican party, which he upholds by his ballot at each election. He is also a persistent temperance worker, and has "fought whisky" for fifty-three years. His labors have been earnest and effective in this direction, and at all times he has given his support to measures and movements which he believes will prove of public benefit. He has now reached the Psalmist's span of three-score years and ten, yet is still actively connected with business affairs. He has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of Grundy county, and as one of its honored pioneer settlers he well deserves representation in this volume, being the oldest settler alive to-day in Morris.

JOHN TUNIS VAN DOLSON.

More than sixty years ago the subject of this sketch, then a lad of sixteen years, came to Grundy county, and he is entitled to rank not only with

those who have lived long in the county but as well with its oldest citizens in point of years.

John Tunis Van Dolson was born in Albany county, New York, April 5, 1822. He is descended in both the paternal and maternal lines from Holland ancestry, that entered into the famous Dutch colony of New York, the history of which constitutes an interesting part of the colonial history of the Empire state. The old Dutch spelling of the name was Van Dalfsen. Descendants of these old Dutch families may well be proud of their ancestry, for no class of American citizens can boast of a more worthy and honorable lineage.

Mr. Van Dolson's father was Tunis Van Dolson, and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Ten Eyck. The latter died when her son was but a child of six or seven years, he being the youngest of five children,—three daughters and two sons. The daughters, who are now all dead, became residents of Illinois. They were Charlotte Amelia, who became the wife of Ephraim Bronk; Garritie, who married Theron Collins and died in Kansas many years ago; and Elizabeth Ann, who became the wife of William H. Perkins. The subject of this biography and his brother Conrad Van Dolson are the only surviving members of the family. The latter, now ninety years old, is a resident of Chicago. A son, however, James W., was born of the second marriage of the father, and he lives in the state of New York.

John Tunis Van Dolson lived in his native state until he was sixteen years old, and in 1838 came to Illinois with his sister, Elizabeth Ann, who had before that time married Mr. Perkins. They came directly to Au Sable township, Grundy county, and Mr. Van Dolson remained at the home of his sister till the following spring, when he went to Kendall, Kendall county, Illinois, where his brother-in-law, Ephraim Bronk, was living, and staid with him about a year and a half, when he returned to Au Sable and for seven years worked on the farm of his brother-in-law, William Perkins. In the meantime he had purchased the quarter section of land on which he now lives, and rented the same to another party, not having sufficient capital to farm it himself, and for a time he worked as a hired hand for the man to whom he rented the place.

December 7, 1848, he was married to Miss Rachel Widney, who died September 11, 1858, leaving two children: Mary E., born September 16, 1849, now the wife of William Smith, of Gardner, Illinois; and William, born May 11, 1857, who resides near the home of his father. The Widney family, of which Mrs. Van Dolson was a member, trace their Dutch ancestry back several hundred years. A remote ancestor, as a colonel, accompanied the army of William III, Prince of Orange, from Holland to Ireland in 1688.

The grandparents of Mrs. Van Dolson were John and Mary Widney, who emigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania, and removed thence to Miami county, Ohio. February 4, 1864, Mr. Van Dolson was married to his present estimable wife, who was Miss Elizabeth Ross, born in Ohio, April 1, 1835, a daughter of Charles and Sarah Ross, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively, and examples of true American nobility. Immediately after his first marriage, Mr. Van Dolson settled on his farm, and there he has since lived. He has prospered financially and is numbered with the solid citizens of the county. He has always taken a commendable interest in the moral and material growth of the community in which he lives and has ever been held in the highest esteem. He was a member of the board of county commissioners for many years, and during his service in that capacity his acts were ever characterized by honest conviction of duty and the best interests of his township and county.

Politically Mr. Van Dolson was by birthright a Democrat, and in his earlier voting days affiliated with that party. Since the Republican party came into being, however, he has been identified with it. He possesses strong prohibition principles, opposing the sale of liquor in all forms. While connected with no church organization, he aims to be governed in his daily walk of life by Christian principle, and is liberal in his support of religious work. Mrs. Van Dolson is a member of the Congregational church.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Dolson have a pleasant home and are surrounded by all the comforts of life, and are everywhere recognized as highly esteemed citizens of Grundy county. Their farm is well improved and well stocked and is supplied with all modern devices for successful cultivation. Everything about it is strictly up-to-date and the place gives evidence everywhere and in every way of being in the hands of a careful and skillful farmer.

JOSEPH A. WILSON.

Few men are more prominent or more widely known in the enterprising city of Morris than Mr. Wilson. He has been an important factor in business circles and his popularity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, and an unabating energy and industry that never flag. He is public-spirited and thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of Morris. He is now serving as the mayor of the city, and his administration is very acceptable to the people, being progressive, practical and beneficial.

Mr. Wilson was born in Putnam county, Illinois, February 20, 1850,

his parents being Jonathan and Elma C. (Hoyle) Wilson. The father was born in Union county, Kentucky, in 1809, and was a son of Thornton Wilson, also a native of that state and a representative of an old Virginia family of Scotch origin. When twenty-one years of age Jonathan Wilson came to Illinois, taking up his residence in Putnam county, where he married Miss Hoyle, whose birth occurred in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1820. During her girlhood she removed to Putnam county with her parents, who were of English lineage. In 1850 Jonathan Wilson came with his family to Grundy county, where he carried on farming and stock-raising, meeting with a fair degree of success in his undertaking. He served in the Black Hawk war in 1832, and was actively identified with the pioneer interests of the state. In his political affiliations he was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks. Through her religious faith, his wife was connected with the Society of Friends. This worthy couple became the parents of ten children: William A., who died in 1872; Edith E.; Mary E., who died in 1875; Joseph A.; Oliver T., who died in infancy; Sabina M.; Edward F., who died in 1897; Marshall B., of Morris; Charles E., who died in 1893; and Orvil T., also a resident of Morris. The father of this family was called to his final rest in 1887, and the mother's death occurred in Morris in 1899.

Mr. Wilson, whose name begins this sketch, came to Grundy county during his infancy and was reared upon his father's farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He continued to operate the farm until 1881, at which time he became a resident of Morris, but though he left the homestead he has since been actively connected with agricultural and stock-dealing interests. He owns several farms and is one of the most extensive stock-dealers in this section of the country, his business having assumed extensive proportions, yielding to him an excellent income, and his prosperity is well merited.

On the 5th of March, 1879, Mr. Wilson was happily married to Miss Hattie E. Collins, a daughter of Joshua and Harriet (Cryder) Collins, who were early settlers of Grundy county. They now have two children—Edna M. and Jay C. Mrs. Wilson is a faithful member of the Congregational church, and is a lady of culture to whom the hospitality of the best homes of Morris is extended. In politics Mr. Wilson is a Republican, having always given an unfaltering support to the principles of his party. He has served as township supervisor, has been a member of the city council of Morris, and in the spring of 1899 was elected mayor. The reins of the city government were thus placed in competent hands, for he is a public-spirited man, deeply interested in the upbuilding and substantial development of the city. He does all in his power to promote its interests, and in his official course has

won uniform commendation. His business record is above reproach, and as a man and citizen he is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

WINFIELD S. PIERCE.

On the roster of Grundy county officials is found the name of Mr. Pierce, for he is efficiently serving as the county clerk. He was born in Wyoming county, New York, August 7, 1852, his parents being Carey and Mercy (Warren) Pierce, both of whom were natives of the Empire state, and were of Scotch lineage. Their ancestors settled first in Masachusetts, and later representatives of the family removed to western New York, early in 1800. In that section of the country Mr. Buell, the great-grandfather of our subject, was celebrated far and wide as an Indian fighter. It was in the year 1854 that Carey Pierce and his wife came to Illinois, taking up their residence upon a farm in Highland township, Grundy county, where the father devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits until his death. He died in 1896, at the age of seventy-one years, and his wife passed away in 1871, at the age of forty-four years. They were the parents of four children, as follows: W. S., of this review; Warren, a farmer of Plankinton, Dakota; Lorin, who is engaged in the milling business in Michigan; and Elmer E., a grain inspector of Joliet, Illinois.

W. S. Pierce spent the days of his boyhood upon the home farm and acquired his education in the schools of the neighborhood. At the age of seventeen he left the parental roof and started out upon an independent business career by learning telegraphy. He was afterward employed in Streator, Illinois, as a bill clerk, and for three years was the manager of the business of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and the agent for the United States Express Company, at that place. In 1876 he removed to Verona, Illinois, where he engaged in the grain business, but that undertaking did not prove a profitable one and in 1878 he failed in business there, but afterward continued to deal in grain at that point, with the exception of a period of five months, with good success, until 1896, when he sold his interest. Two years previously he had been called to public office by the ballots of the Republican voters of Grundy county, being elected county clerk. He discharged his duties so acceptably and promptly that he was re-elected in 1898 without opposition in his own party. He is most careful and systematic in his work, and his ability and faithfulness have gained him the commendation of all concerned. Although in office, he is not entirely separated from connection with the commercial interests, being a stockholder in the Morris Grain Company, which was organized in 1895.

In the year 1875 Mr. Pierce was united in marriage to Miss Ellen L. Ward, who died in 1891, leaving three children, namely: Erwin, who is the manager of the Grundy County Telegraph Company; Ilda M., the wife of Clare E. Godfrey, who is serving as deputy county clerk; and Carl, at home. In 1892 Mr. Pierce was again married, Miss Carrie Martin becoming his wife. They have two children—Corinne and Bernice. Mr. Pierce has spent almost his entire life in Grundy county and among his stanchest friends are those who have known him from boyhood. His long retention in office is an indication of his reliability and able service, and Grundy county numbers him among its most valued officers.

GEORGE E. TOWSLEY.

George E. Towsley, now one of the substantial agriculturists of Grundy county, is a self-made man, having won an honored place in society and having accumulated a competence unaided by friends or relatives. He has conquered more obstacles than commonly fall to the lot of young men, and has grown strong and self-reliant by the struggles he made in those conquests.

A native of New York state, George E. Towsley was born on the 9th of March, 1863, on a farm in Hamilton county. He is a son of George and Sophia (Shipman) Towsley, both of whom were of Canadian birth. The father came across the border into the United States about 1850, and, locating on a homestead in the county just mentioned, continued to pursue his chosen calling, that of farming, until his death, in 1864. His wife did not long survive him, as she passed into the silent land in 1867, and thus the subject of this sketch was left an orphan at the tender age of four years. He was adopted by Amos Dunning, who, though reasonably kind to the lad, of course did not have the love and consideration for him that only a parent can feel toward his own children. The boy attended school to some extent, but it was made plain to him that it should be his chief business in life to perform as much labor on the farm as it was possible for him to do. He sturdily endeavored to please his foster father until he was twenty years of age, when he was nothing loth to begin an independent career.

Believing that better opportunities could be found in the west, he decided to try his fortunes in Illinois, and the year 1883 witnessed his arrival in Grundy county. Here he worked industriously upon farms for four years, carefully husbanding his earnings, after which he rented a farm for a period of three years. In 1890 he bought a tract of land in Nettle Creek township, his present home place, and since that time he has given his whole

time and energy toward the cultivation and beautifying of the farm, which is considered one of the best and most desirable in the township.

Mr. Towsley has never been an aspirant to political honors, for he much prefers to lead a quiet, independent life. He uses his franchise in favor of the Republican party and its nominees, and fraternally is identified with the Knights of the Globe. He is a good citizen and carries out in his daily life the high principles which should animate every one who enjoys the blessings and protection afforded by the stars and stripes.

Nine years ago, in 1890, Mr. Towsley chose Olive M. Hoge to be the sharer of his joys and sorrows, their marriage being celebrated in this township. She is a daughter of Hendley and Sarah (LaSalle) Hoge, the former of whom gave his life for the Union in the great Civil war. The history of the family may be found elsewhere in this work. Five children have been born to our subject and wife, namely: Lena May, whose birth occurred May 10, 1891; George Hendley, April 19, 1893; Gertrude Alberta, September 11, 1896; Beulah Pearl, born January 15, 1898, and died September 22, following; and Ivy, born April 17, 1899.

FREDERICK S. JOHNSON.

This gentleman is serving as clerk of the circuit court, and is a well known resident of Morris and Grundy county. He was born in the city which is still his home on the 19th of July, 1867, and is a son of Peter A. Johnson, one of the early settlers of the community. His father followed farming during the youth of Frederick, who was in consequence reared upon the old homestead farm and attended the common schools of the neighborhood. His preliminary education, however, was supplemented by a course in Morris high school, where he was graduated at the age of twenty years. Subsequently he pursued a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, of Chicago, and thus well fitted for the practical duties of life he entered upon his business career. On the 1st of October, 1889, he became deputy county clerk and acceptably filled that office until April, 1893, when he went to Chicago and for one year acted as a bookkeeper in the large music house of Lyon & Healy. In January, 1894, he returned to Morris and became associated with his father and brothers in the agricultural business, from which he retired in 1896, being elected in that year to the office of circuit-court clerk as the Republican candidate. He is the present incumbent, his term expiring in 1900. By virtue of the office he also serves as the county recorder. He is very exact and prompt in the discharge of his duties, and has won the approval of all concerned.

Fred S. Johnson

On the 23d of November, 1892, Mr. Johnson married Miss Carrie J., a daughter of Jacob Gorich, of Morris, and their union has been blessed with one child, Freda L. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Presbyterian church, and he also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Sons of Veterans, the Knights of the Globe, and in the Masonic fraternity has attained the Knight Templar degree. Since casting his first presidential vote he has supported the men and measures of the Republican party and is an active factor in political circles. His laudable ambition and enterprise have brought him success, and he is numbered among the representative men of his native town.

WILLIAM L. SACKETT.

Mr. Sackett is distinctively American; so were his ancestors, both lineal and collateral, for generations. His father, Loren Sackett, is a direct descendant of the Sackvilles, the English branch of the family, which for many years has been prominent in official and mercantile circles in England. The mother, Sarah (Downey) Sackett, is a lineal descendant of a family that was prominent in Ireland and that has figured conspicuously in events which go to form the history of the Emerald Isle. Representatives of both the paternal and maternal ancestry played a prominent part in the early history of America. They were members of the Pilgrim band and lovers of religious liberty and independence. The ancestors are found among the few that embarked on the Mayflower when it made its famous voyage to the New World to carry the little band of settlers who were to lay the foundation for the development of New England. They sought here liberty to worship God after the promptings of their conscience, and throughout the colonial epoch members of both families were concerned with the important interests which go to form the records of that period of our national history. When the British tyranny became unendurable and the colonists resolved to throw off all allegiance to the mother country, members of the family were among those early on the field of battle and also in the deliberations in the halls of the continental congress. The subject of this sketch is a great-grandson of Lieutenant Adnah Sackett, who was a volunteer soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving as first lieutenant in Captain Sackett's (Seventh) Company of Colonel John Moseley's Third Hampshire County (Massachusetts) Regiment. The name of Sackett figures prominently in the records of the Revolutionary war, and several of the family were engaged with Washington in his campaigns, two being upon the immediate staff of the father of his country.

Loren Sackett, the father of our subject, was a boy of nine years at the time of the outbreak of the war of 1812. He took an active interest in the Mexican war, and gave close attention to the events which led up to and attended the Civil war, but was too old to join the army. Two of his sons, however, served with the boys in blue, William Henry becoming the captain of Company I, Eleventh Connecticut Volunteers, serving until the last engagement of his regiment before Petersburg, in 1865, when he was killed on the field of battle. The other son, Joseph T., was a member of Company C, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry. He enlisted as a corporal, but for gallantry on the field of battle at Ringgold Gap was brevetted captain. This event concerning the preservation of the colors of the regiment is a matter of comment in the state reports.

William Loren Sackett, whose name introduces this review, was born at Holyoke, Massachusetts, in the early '60s, and at the age of three years was taken by his parents to Springfield, that state, where he lived until about eight years of age. As the result of death and sickness the family became scattered, and William L. made his way westward to live with an older brother, then located in Amboy, Illinois, to which place the father came after some years of travel in search of health, his death occurring in Amboy. Through the winter months William L. Sackett was allowed the privilege of attending the country schools, and during the summer months he worked upon the farm, herding cattle or doing anything else that he could find to do in order to help pay his way. A few years later he went to Hartford, Connecticut, to live with a sister, and there enjoyed the benefits of a grammar-school education and studied during one or two terms in a preliminary class of the Hartford high school. The circumstances of the family at that time, however, would not permit of his graduation, and he secured a position in a small job printing office, where he was able to earn enough to pay for his board and clothing. During the winter, as opportunity offered, he attended a night school and was thus engaged until his strength failed. After a long and nearly fatal illness he went to Dakota, in 1881, spending a year upon a ranch, his labors bringing him his livelihood and at the same time greatly benefiting his health. The ranch was situated in the vicinity of the Sioux and Brule Indian reservations. Upon recovering his health, Mr. Sackett returned to Illinois, in 1881, locating in Springfield. There he again began work at the printer's trade, accepting a position in a job office. Subsequently he turned his attention to newspaper work, and was for a time a reporter for the State Journal at Springfield. Subsequently he served as the business manager of other publications and finally became night editor of the Journal, in which capacity he served until the paper was sold and reorganized in 1884.

During this time Mr. Sackett had become a stenographic writer, and on severing his connection with the State Journal he became the capitol correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. He later served upon the staff of the Chicago Herald, the New York Tribune, the Philadelphia Press, St. Louis Globe-Democrat and other papers. In this way he became actively interested in political affairs, formed the acquaintance of many prominent statesmen and politicians and numbers among his friends some of the most eminent men of the day. He served for some time in the capacity of private secretary to Governor John R. Tanner, who at that time was the state treasurer and political manager for Senator Cullom. He was also at one time private secretary for Cullom, three or four years for Chief Justice Simeon P. Shope, of the state supreme court, and for seven years for Attorney General Hunt. While thus engaged he was complimented by being selected by Governor Richard J. Oglesby as his confidential assistant in the disposition of the trying appeals for clemency made in behalf of the condemned Chicago anarchists, and was highly complimented by the governor in an autograph letter upon his success in outwitting the hundreds of newspaper correspondents and getting information of the governor's denial of the plea for pardon to the officials in Chicago ten hours before it became known in Springfield, that proper provision might be made to frustrate any plans for assailing the county jail and rescuing the anarchists. Mr. Sackett also aided Attorney-General Hunt in the preparation and hearing of this case on its appeal to the United States supreme court at Washington.

While in Springfield, in 1887, he became acquainted with and married Miss Ida I. Brown, a young lady of culture and many admirable qualities. As a result of this marriage two children have been born, Loren B. and Edwin, aged respectively eleven and two years.

Mr. Sackett has been engaged in various lines of newspaper and mercantile work and railroading, and for a number of years has been active and prominent in state politics, being an uncompromising Republican and a fearless, open fighter. In the McKinley campaign of 1896 he was named by acclamation as the presidential elector for the eighth congressional district, with nearly twenty thousand Republican majority. In 1891 he came to Morris and purchased the Morris Herald. It has been a stanch and uncompromising Republican paper under his management, and is a journal that is a credit to the city. It has always been conducted upon the broader ideas gained by its publisher when identified with metropolitan papers, directing its criticisms as an impersonal advocate of the people, regardless of the personal beliefs of the individuals associated with it. This idea of journalism was new to the constituency of the paper, and many looked upon it askance as a type of personality. Those who knew Mr. Sackett best, however, long

ago learned that no matter what his paper said he frequently did not entertain the same views personally, and personally he is ever ready to meet his friends or opponents with the best of feeling, regardless of newspaper comment. It is not difficult to find numerous critics who will say that, no matter what else they may think, under the direction of its present publisher the paper is always outspoken upon every proposition, and that it does much by its policy to curb the vicious and promote the best interests of the city.

ALMERON K. KNAPP.

The able man of affairs whose name is above has been the most prominent business man in Minooka, Grundy county, since 1865, and he conducts the grain, lumber and banking business of the town. He is a native of the Empire state, having been born in Chenango county, New York, in 1836, and is of New England lineage. Simeon Knapp, his father, was born in Connecticut and went to New York state while yet a young man and there married Caroline Root.

When Almeron K. Knapp was a mere lad the family removed to Steuben county, New York, and located near Bath, one of the two seats of justice of that county, and there Simeon Knapp died at the age of sixty-five years. His wife survived him a number of years. Young Almeron received his primary education in the public schools near his home and later took an academic course. He then entered upon a business career and had considerable experience in merchandising before he came west. He located in Illinois in 1865, and was married, at Lockport, to Miss Pamelia Griswold, who came from Connecticut to Illinois in 1836.

Minooka is the distributing point for an extensive and rich tributary territory, a country of large and productive farms and of successful business enterprises of all kinds. Mr. Knapp was not long in acquiring a monopoly of the grain trade at this point, and his business in that line is an extensive one, his grain shipments amounting to about seven hundred thousand bushels annually. He handles large quantities of lumber, and the financial department of his enterprise brings him in close touch with the business interests in all directions round about Minooka.

Not only is Mr. Knapp a successful business man but he is also a public-spirited man, a most estimable citizen, and he possesses in an eminent degree the esteem and confidence of all who know him. His liberality in the support of church interests and public enterprises having for their object the best interests of the community is recognized by all.

Politically Mr. Knapp is a thoroughgoing Republican, though he cast

his first vote for Stephen A. Douglas, the great war Democrat. He is not personally a seeker for political preferment, but exerts a not uncertain influence upon local political affairs. He was made a Mason many years ago and has advanced to the thirty-second degree, becoming a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, Ineffable Degrees of the Scottish rite. Mr. Knapp's only surviving brother, George Knapp, is a well-to-do farmer living in Steuben county, New York. He has three sisters.

STEPHANAS W. FURR.

Stephanas W. Furr, one of Grundy county's most enterprising business men, is of French descent, his grandfather, Enoch Furr, having been born and reared in France. At about the time of the Revolutionary war he emigrated to America and settled in Loudoun county, Virginia, where he was successfully engaged in farming until shortly before his death, which event took place when he was one hundred and four years of age.

Lewton Furr, the father of our subject, was born in 1797, in the Old Dominion. He remained with his parents until he attained his majority, when he married Pleasant Matthews and started upon his independent career. Renting a farm in Loudoun county, he cultivated the place for ten years, and then moved to Frederick county, same state, where he purchased a good homestead. In 1854 he sold out and came to LaSalle county, Illinois. Here he continued his agricultural labors until death released him from his cares, in 1870. His wife, after surviving him about thirteen years, passed to her reward February 27, 1883. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom Agnes, the eldest, died in infancy; Richard, Elizabeth, Squire, Margaret and Pleasant are deceased; Newton lives in Morris, Illinois; Chapman and Sylvanas W. reside in Livingston county, this state; Mary's home is near Marion, Indiana; S. W., our subject; and Martha died December 23, 1899.

The birth of S. W. Furr occurred in Frederick county, Virginia, September 13, 1837, and in 1854, when he was in his eighteenth year, he came to this state, and for five years aided his father in placing his new farm under cultivation. In the spring of 1860 he married and embarked in agriculture upon his own account, living in LaSalle county for four years and in Livingston county for five years. Since 1869 he has carried on a farm in Grundy county, it being a part of the estate of his father-in-law. There are two hundred and forty acres in his homestead, all well improved and productive. Mr. Furr is a practical farmer, industrious and enterprising, and by judicious management he has become well-to-do. He follows in the political foot-

steps of his father, being an ardent Democrat, but he has never sought nor accepted office.

The marriage of Mr. Furr and Mary, the daughter of John and Mary Gray, both of whom were natives of Scotland, took place in the spring of 1860. Six sons and five daughters were born to our subject and wife, namely: Ida P., who married Ira West and lives in Kendall county; James R., who wedded Josie Johnson and makes his home in De Kalb county; George N., of this county, whose wife formerly was Flora Moseman; Mattie J., the wife of John Woodward, of Mississippi; Mary Josephine, the wife of Martin Anderson, of De Kalb county; Belle, deceased; Margaret V., who married Martin Seal and lives in the old Gray home in Nettle Creek township; and the names of the four youngest boys, living at home, are John F., William S., Francis W. and Robert A.

ROBERT SYKES.

Grundy county is fortunate in possessing so many enterprising young agriculturists, and numbered among the progressive farmers of Wauponsee township stands Robert Sykes. He is a native of Morris, his birth having occurred April 7, 1871, and his early years were passed upon the homestead of his parents, Thomas H. and Betty (Cryer) Sykes, whose history is printed upon another page of this work.

As soon as he was old enough to be of any assistance to his parents, Robert Sykes commenced working on the farm and before he was twenty years of age he was thoroughly familiar with every detail of agriculture. High principles of conduct were early instilled into his mind, and in the public schools of his home district he acquired a liberal education. In later years he has constantly broadened his mental vision by reading and study, and observation and experience have conduced toward the same end. It was his privilege to attend the normal school at Morris for about two years, and educational affairs are matters of deep interest to him, as they should be to every true, progressive American.

Since arriving at maturity, Robert Sykes has devoted his whole attention to the management of his father's farm, and for some time he has independently cultivated a portion of the property, where he has his home. In all of his manly struggles for a competence he is aided by his estimable wife, a lady of refinement and rare womanly qualities. It was on the 28th of June, 1898, that the marriage of Mr. Sykes and Izora Heather, daughter of James and Emma (Wellman) Heather, of this county, was celebrated.

In his political standing Mr. Sykes is a Republican. He has no desire

to officiate in public capacities, and is not a politician in the ordinary sense of the word, but he has well grounded convictions upon the duties of the citizens of this great republic, and faithfully adheres to his high principles.

FRANK N. HULL.

Frank N. Hull, the proprietor and publisher of the Morris Post, was born in Morris, Illinois, October 26, 1864, his parents being Birdsey B. and Cynthia (Crumb) Hull. His father was born in Ohio, March 29, 1834, and died in Morris, March 14, 1894. He was a son of Samuel and Abigail (Pardee) Hull, and with his parents came to Morris in 1847, making the journey across the country. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Miss Cynthia Crumb, a daughter of Ambrose and Polly Crumb, who removed from New York to Illinois in 1846, taking up their abode in Morris.

Frank N. Hull was one of a family of nine children, but only four are now living. His entire life has been passed in Morris, and to its public school system he is indebted for the educational advantages he received. At the age of seventeen he began learning the printer's trade and diligently applied himself to the mastery of the business. In July, 1889, he joined Messrs. Kutz and Murray in the establishment of the Morris Post. In 1891 Mr. Kutz sold out, and in 1894 Mr. Murray also sold his interest, Mr. Hull thus becoming sole proprietor. He has since conducted the publication of the Post and issued both a daily and weekly edition. He has made his journal one of the best in this section of the state. It is a clean, bright and entertaining sheet, devoted to the local interests of Morris and Grundy county, and has a large circulation, of which it is justly deserving. This renders it a good advertising medium and the advertising patronage of the paper is large and adds materially to the income which the owner derives therefrom.

On the 1st of January, 1891, Mr. Hull was united in marriage to Miss Helen L., a daughter of H. D. Hitchcock and Mary J. (Cutting) Hitchcock. Her father was a native of Champlain county, New York, and her mother of Westport, Essex county, that state. In 1867 Mr. Hitchcock came to Morris and for some years was numbered among its prominent citizens. He served as deputy clerk of Grundy county for four years, and in 1877 was elected county clerk, which position he was filling at the time of his death, April 7, 1880. His son, W. D. Hitchcock, served as his deputy and after his father's death was elected to fill out the unexpired term. In 1891 he became a resident of Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Hull was born in Champlain county, New York, in 1864. Since the establishment of the Post she has

been her husband's able assistant in its management and has contributed in no small degree to its success. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hull are numbered among the valued and popular citizens of this community and have a very large circle of friends.

SMITH DE LA MATTER.

In pioneer days Smith De La Matter came to Maine township, then Braceville township, and through many years has been prominently identified with its agricultural interests. He is descended from an old French Huguenot family, but for many generations its representatives have found homes in America. Isaac De La Matter, the grandfather of our subject, was a cooper by trade and resided in Dutchess county, New York, for many years. In old age he removed to Canada, where he spent his last days with his son Martin. His children were Seymour, Smith, Martin, Cornelia and Elizabeth.

Martin De La Matter, the father of our subject, was born in Dutchess county, New York, September 8, 1795, received a common-school education and early became familiar with the labors of the farm. When a young man he removed to Canboro, Canada, and was there married, November 3, 1818, to Sabina Smith, who was born in New York, August 6, 1797, a daughter of Matthew and Mary (Wright) Smith. Her father was born April 4, 1773, and died in Ontario, August 16, 1834. Her mother was born March 18, 1777, and died February 2, 1846. They were married April 29, 1795, and had sixteen children: Ezra, who was born in New York, January 16, 1796, was married and had nine children and died January 16, 1864; Sabina, born August 6, 1797, had nine children and died February 9, 1835; Ferrand, born in New York, July 26, 1799, had nine children and died in Michigan, March 19, 1875; Martha, born in Port Erie, Canada, September 17, 1801, had six children and died January 11, 1867; Sabrin, born in Canboro, Ontario, June 17, 1803, had nine children; Matthew, born April 8, 1805, in Ontario, and died September 2, 1871; an infant, who died unnamed; Mary, born in Canboro, Ontario, August 31, 1807, had seven children and died May 3, 1848; Joel, born September 25, 1809, in Canboro, Ontario, had two children and died October 12, 1832; Phoebe, born in Ontario, November 19, 1811, had eleven children and died November 8, 1873; Seth K., born in Canboro, August 2, 1814, had three children; Elizabeth, born in Canboro, April 26, 1816, had six children and died March 22, 1868; James W., born in Canboro, July 26, 1818, had one child and died October 30, 1898; Isaac, born July 31, 1819, had one

Mr & Mrs.
Smith De La Matter

child; Wesley, born in Canboro, April 5, 1822, had three children and died July 20, 1872; and Margaret, born in Canboro, April 18, 1825, had six children and died July 6, 1861. The father of these children was a millwright by trade, and with his family removed from New York to Ontario, Canada, in 1800. About 1802 he located on a farm at Canboro, purchasing a tract of land and building thereon a mill. He settled in the midst of the primeval forest, cleared away the trees and developed rich and fertile fields, becoming one of the substantial and well known citizens of the community. His children settled around him and the family was one of prominence there. In his religious belief he was a Methodist and died in that faith in Canboro, at a very advanced age.

After his marriage Martin De La Matter located on a farm at Canboro, where they lived for some years and then removed to Pelham, Ontario, now in Welland county, and there he purchased and improved a farm, securing two hundred acres of land, from which he cleared the trees. When it was placed under cultivation additional crops were planted and soon abundant harvests rewarded his labors. Ultimately he became one of the prosperous as well as enterprising farmers of his community. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church, in which he served as a class-leader, and to the support of the church he made liberal contributions and in his life he manifested its teachings. He held a number of township offices, and at the time of the Canadian rebellion served as a sergeant, being stationed at Fort Erie. By his marriage to Sabina Smith he had the following children: Cyrus, who was born in Canboro, September 10, 1820, and died February 27, 1890; Ryan A., who was born May 5, 1822, and died May 16, 1827; Eben J., who was born April 17, 1824; Cornelia, who was born December 10, 1825, and died October 25, 1863; Smith, who was born May 26, 1827; Ferrand, born May 25, 1830, and died September 5, 1831; Peter M., who was born in Pelham, February 14, 1833; and Martin, who was born December 13, 1834, and died March 26, 1835. The mother of these children died in Pelham, February 10, 1835, and on the 15th of September, of the same year, Mr. De La Matter was married in Pelham to Mary M. Vanderburgh. She was born in Ontario, June 20, 1806, and died September 11, 1885, and was of Dutch lineage. The children of this union are: Sabina, who was born in Pelham, June 27, 1836; Henry, born July 23, 1838; Ira, born January 29, 1840; Robert H., who was born March 19, 1842, and died June 4, 1899; Isaac, who was born March 24, 1845, and died July 3, 1869; Mary E., who was born March 13, 1847, and died January 18, 1867; and Frances E., born February 28, 1850. The father of these children died in Pelham, December 19, 1874. He was a leading and influential citizen of the community,

whose upright life commended him to the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact. He reared a highly respected family, and the children of his second marriage all received college educations. Robert H. became a physician; Henry is a teacher in the high school; Ira was educated for the bar; and Isaac also prepared for the legal profession but died in early manhood.

Smith De La Matter, the subject of this review, acquired his education in the common schools of Pelham and early became familiar with the work of the farm, assisting in the work of field and meadow throughout the summer months. He aided his father in the cultivation of the homestead until twenty-two years of age, and in 1849 he came to Illinois, locating in Millington, on the Fox river. There he was employed as a farm hand by his uncle, Seymour, and afterward worked in a wagon shop. In 1854 he returned to Canada, where he worked at the millwright's trade in Pelham and other towns. He was married in Manchester, New York, April 30, 1859, to Margaret A. Marron, who was born in Belfast, Ireland, May 6, 1832, and was of English and Scotch lineage, her parents being James and Catherine (McGrain) Marron. Her father was the only son of a wealthy man. His wife was a daughter of William and Ellen McGrain, the former a merchant of Edinburg, Scotland, in which city he died. James Marron and his wife died in early life, leaving their daughter Margaret an orphan at the age of three years. She lived with her uncle, William McGrain, in Edinburg, Scotland, until eight years of age, when she accompanied him on his emigration to America. Three years later he returned to the land of hills and heather, leaving Margaret to the care of his friend, William Aikens, and soon after his arrival in Scotland Mr. McGrain died. Unto our subject and his wife have been born three children: James, who was born February 29, 1860, and died on the same day; Truman M., who was born March 14, 1861; and Martin S., who was born September 8, 1863, and died May 2, 1869.

In May, 1869, Mr. and Mrs. De La Matter came to Illinois and purchased eighty acres of wild land in Maine township, Grundy county, paying four hundred dollars for the tract. This amount he had saved from the proceeds of his own labor, and upon the new farm he began life in the west. Long years of untiring activity followed, in which he greatly improved his property, erecting a pleasant home and substantial outbuildings and adding other accessories and conveniences of a model farm. He has also extended the boundaries of his property until the homestead now comprises one hundred and sixty acres, and in addition to this he owns two hundred acres of rich and fertile land in Greenville township, all under a high state of cultivation. All of the improvements upon the place stand

as monuments to his thrift and enterprise, for his possessions have been acquired entirely through his well directed efforts. His activity in the affairs of life has brought to him a handsome competence and his example should serve to encourage others who are forced to enter upon a business career empty-handed, for America offers unlimited possibilities to her citizens if they be possessed of energy, ambition and resolution.

His son, Truman M., has operated the farm for a number of years. He acquired his preliminary education in the district schools and afterward attended the high school of Normal, Illinois. Subsequently he engaged in teaching in Maine township, but has had charge of his father's property for some time, thus relieving Mr. De La Matter of much care and labor. He was married, in Maine township, March 14, 1895, to Jennie M. Williams, who was born in Cook county, Illinois, March 9, 1866, and is a daughter of Edmund J. and Mary (James) Williams. Her father was born in Manchester, England, December 4, 1833, and received a common-school education. In 1852, when nineteen years of age, he crossed the Atlantic to New York and resided in the Empire state for two years. He was married in that state, January 1, 1856, to Mary James, who was born in Manchester, England, March 4, 1835, and came to America on the same ship in which Mr. Williams took passage. She died March 12, 1900, in Gardner, from the effects of an accident. Their children were as follows: Mary E., born April 14, 1857, in Cook county, Illinois, died July 22, 1893; George H. was born in the same county, February 18, 1859; John B., born January 8, 1864, died January 18, 1891; Jennie M. was born March 9, 1866, in Cook county; Ida B. was born in the same county May 5, 1868; Andrew J. was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, August 3, 1869; Albert was born October 15, 1872; Lillie L. was born May 12, 1874, and died November 27, 1890; and Fred, born January 22, 1876, died in childhood. Soon after his marriage Mr. Williams removed to Cook county, Illinois, locating on land in Norton township. In February, 1868, he removed to Kankakee county, Illinois, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres there. He prospered, becoming one of the substantial farmers of the community. In 1869 he took up his abode in Gardner, Illinois, and from there removed to Mazon township, where he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land, upon which he lived for some years. He then returned to Gardner, where he now resides. His wife was a lady of many virtues and her death was deeply deplored by her family and a large circle of friends. Mr. Williams has always lived an industrious and upright life and is respected by all who know him. In his political views Truman M. De La Matter is independent. He is an honored member of the order of Knights of Pythias of Gardner and has filled all of its offices, including

that of chancellor. He is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and in his local camp has served as venerable counselor. A practical farmer and well known citizen, he is straightforward in his dealings and honorable in all life's relations.

JAMES MEAD.

The self-made man is everywhere the leading citizen. People take to him, and when he has once established his right to be so called good fortune seldom deserts him. Grundy county, Illinois, has many self-made men and Au Sable township has its proportion of them, one of the best known of whom is the man whose name forms the title to this sketch.

James Mead, one of the early settlers and well known citizens of Au Sable township, was born in Kerry, Ireland. His father was Michael Mead and his mother's maiden name was Kate Heffern. They both died when their son, James, was a child, though he was old enough to remember them distinctly. They left four children, three sons and a daughter. The other sons were named John and Patrick, and the daughter was named Anna. James was the oldest of the family and the only one who came to America. When he was about fourteen years old he crossed the ocean with an aunt, his mother's sister, and went directly to Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained about three years. In 1855 he came to Minooka, Grundy county, Illinois, and has been a resident of this county ever since.

Mr. Mead married Miss Maria Briscoe, who comes from a well known early family of Grundy county, and Mr. and Mrs. Mead have been blessed with nine children—three sons and six daughters, named as follows in the order of their birth: Mary Ellen, Eliza, James, Annie, Maggie, Nicholas, Katie, Agnes and Frank.

Mr. Mead came to America a poor boy, with no parents on whom to depend; but he went to work with a determination to succeed in life. He has a fine farm, and it is not too much to say that he is one of the substantial citizens of Au Sable township. He has ever been esteemed as an honest, upright man and possesses the respect of his fellow citizens. He and all the members of his family are worthy members of the Catholic church.

FREDERICK BURKHARDT.

Illinois owes much to her German population, which has long been large, influential and helpful to public prosperity. Among the German settlers in Grundy county no family is more favorably known than the Burk-

hardts, of whom Frederick Burkhardt, of Good Farm township, is a worthy representative.

Frederick Burkhardt was born at Bion, Bavaria, Germany, March 5, 1830, a son of Leonard Burkhardt, a well-to-do farmer who owned forty-one acres of good land and whose first wife bore him children named Margaret, Barbara, Michael, Leonard, Christian, Hans, Frederick, Andrew, Christina, Mary, Martin and Sophia. The mother of these children died and he married again, but had no offspring by his second wife. He died on his place at sixty-five, leaving an enviable reputation as a man of honor and ability. He served his country in the capacity of a teamster during an interesting portion of the Thirty Years' war, and was a consistent member of the Lutheran church.

Frederick Burkhardt was reared to the arduous but health-giving and morality-encouraging work of the farm, attending the public schools from the time he was six years old until he was thirteen, with good results, for he was a diligent student, and was well educated in the Bible. When he left school he began to work out at farm labor and learned to mow with a scythe, to cut grain with a sickle and to thresh with a flail. He was thus employed until he was twenty years old, and even then could get for a whole year's service but ten dollars in cash, with no allowance for clothing. Notwithstanding his paltry wages he was able to save a little money and his father helped him to some more, and he was thus enabled to seek fortune in America in better environments and under more favorable circumstances. He left Bremen Haven on board a sailing vessel, May 10, 1850, and made a voyage to New York which consumed twenty-eight days, and upon his arrival was quarantined for three days more, there having been some cases of small-pox on board. He was thus a full month on the water.

He came at once to Illinois, making his way to Buffalo by the way of the Erie canal, thence to Chicago by lake steamer, thence to Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois, where his brothers, Michael and Leonard, and John Hahn, his sister Barbara's husband, had settled with their families. Later all his other brothers and sisters came over from Germany and settled in Illinois. Mr. Burkhardt began his active career in America as a farm laborer and later was employed in a tavern at Oswego. July 15, 1853, he married Mary Frehwirtd, whose parents were Leonard and Barbara Frehwirtd. He owned forty acres of land in Bion, Bavaria, where he lived out his days and died at the age of seventy years, more or less. In 1852 the widow of Leonard F. came to the United States with her brother Frederick and settled at Oswego, Illinois, sailing from Havre to New York and making the journey from New York to Oswego, Illinois, in the manner then in vogue. In August, 1853, four or five weeks after her marriage to Mr. Burkhardt,

they located on Mr. Burkhardt's present farm, in Good Farm township, not far from Dwight. The homestead then consisted of eighty acres of Prairie land, absolutely wild and unimproved. When it is stated that this land was not only improved and put under cultivation but also that, by subsequent purchases, it has grown to be a valuable tract of eight hundred and eighty acres of fine farm land, some adequate idea of Mr. Burkhardt's industry, economy and excellent business ability will be afforded the reader. The home farm is provided with a substantial frame house and large and fine barns and out-buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt both worked hard, early and late, both planned and both saved, and the means by which Mr. Burkhardt became one of the largest land-owners of Good Farm township were such as have advanced honest and industrious Germans, and others as well, ever since the beginning of general settlement in the middle west. When he arrived at his brother's in Oswego, after that long and memorable journey from the Fatherland, he had but one dollar left, and during the first five months in America he worked for six dollars a month and literally saved all his wages, carrying his economy to the point of mending his own clothing, until he married. As he began to prosper he continued his saving and never had any money for whisky, tobacco or foolish recreation. He had no time for anything but work, and he worked with a will and to good purpose. His career is an illustration of what may be accomplished in this country by a man of determined purpose, with hard work, careful economy and good management. Mr. Burkhardt had no aid but his careful, thrifty and industrious wife, and together they have acquired a handsome property, the value of which approximates one hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt are members and liberal supporters of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Burkhardt has for many years been a church trustee. In politics Mr. Burkhardt has always been a stanch Republican, and it is a matter of local history that he was one of the original Republicans of Good Farm township. The following facts concerning the children of this worthy couple will be found of interest in this connection: Barbara, the first born, died in infancy. Amos died at the age of thirteen years. Others were named John Andrew, John Frederick, Thomas, William, Barbara, Caroline, Sophia and Mina.

SOLOMON HOGE.

One of the remarkable characters of Grundy county was Solomon Hoge, who, after an exceedingly busy and eventful life, passed to his reward a few years ago. His memory is enshrined in the hearts of a host of his lifelong

friends and acquaintances, many of whom will take pleasure in perusing the story of his career.

The birth of Solomon Hoge took place in Virginia, October 18, 1809. His parents were Joshua and Mary (Poole) Hoge. Farming and stock-raising were the chief occupations of his early manhood and prime, and by industry and economy he amassed a competence before he decided to come to Illinois. It was in 1870 that he permanently located in Saratoga township, and here he spent the declining days of his life, loved and honored for what he had accomplished, and for the fortitude with which he had met and overcome the obstacles in his pathway. That he was recognized as one of exceptional ability, judgment and resource was manifested in many ways, and in this connection a quotation from the "History of the Sauks and Black-hawk War," written and published by Perry A. Armstrong, of Morris, Illinois, in 1887, may be of interest. In referring to the excitement and alarm existing at that time at Ottawa, Illinois, he says: "Captain Solomon Hoge, now one of Grundy county's prominent citizens, put in his appearance. He is a man of cool courage, fine presence and a born leader of men, and had been captain in the Virginia militia. His quiet demeanor and sensible questions as to the cause of the alarm were such as to gain the confidence of all. Captain Stadden at once resigned all kind of leadership to Captain Hoge, who, as if by magic, brought out of chaos, confidence; out of doubt and fear, security. First, viewing his surroundings, he selected his guards, went with them to their places, told them what to do, and how to do, assured them that they were in no present danger, and that they would be relieved at such an hour by others. In this way he returned confidence to the wavering, and converted cowards into good soldiers, that, too, in a few minutes' time. But all this precaution and excitement were without cause, for there were no hostile Indians near Ottawa. After Captain Hoge took command of these settlers no further alarms occurred, and the people felt perfectly secure. Such is the influence that one cool-headed, brave man can exert over an excited and badly frightened community."

The marriage of Solomon Hoge and Sarah Bashaw, who survives him, was solemnized March 17, 1872. She is a daughter of Robert H. Bashaw, who was born in Virginia, August 5, 1823, and whose death occurred at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Hoge, January 26, 1896. Her mother, whose maiden name was Virginia Rector, was born in 1832 and departed this life June 30, 1872. The only child born to Solomon and Sarah Hoge is Herman Hoge, now on the old homestead with his mother. His birthplace was in Saratoga township, the date of the event being May 20, 1875. The happy, successful life of our subject came to an end at his home, May 30, 1892, he then being eighty-two years, seven months and twelve days

old. Within his lifetime, which almost spanned this wonderful century, he witnessed the progress of his beloved land from a country little esteemed or considered among the powerful nations of the world to a first place in the councils of the globe, and, as he was a true patriot, he had no greater pleasure than that of tracing the epochs of its growth. Personally he performed his full share as a citizen toward this desirable end, and coming generations shall find his name inscribed among the founders of Illinois and the United States.

WILLIAM B. HADDEN.

From sterling Scotch ancestry Mr. Hadden is descended, and some of the leading characteristics of that race are manifest in his honorable business career. Thomas Hadden, the original American ancestor, left the land of hills and heather for the New World, taking up his abode in New Jersey during the early settlement of the colonies. The records show that he was a resident of Woodbridge, New Jersey, in 1727, and that he died there in 1783. He was a carpenter by trade and a Quaker in religious faith, taking an active part in the administration of the affairs of the Society of Friends. He was also prominent in village affairs, serving as commissioner of highways and as overseer of the poor for many years. In the year 1727 he married Margaret Fitz Randolph, the wedding taking place in Woodbridge, New Jersey. After her death he wedded Margaret Vanquellen, of Bloomfield. She was a widow and the wedding was celebrated in 1750. Afterward he was again married, his third wife, Mrs. Catherine Hadden, surviving him. His children were all born of the first marriage and were: Elizabeth, who married William Smith in 1753; Mary, who became the wife of Thomas Brown in 1754 and afterward married Mr. Dobbs; Nathaniel; Joseph; Thomas, who married Annabel Crowell in 1758; Margaret, who married John Hurd in 1757; and Martha, who became the wife of Nathaniel Loofburrow. The father of these children was disowned by the Quakers in 1750, on account of his marriage to Margaret Vanquellen, who was an Episcopalian.

Thomas Hadden, the son of Thomas and Margaret Hadden, was born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, in 1736, and was the great-grandfather of our subject. He spent his entire life in his native town and was there married in 1736 to Annabel Crowell. During the Revolutionary war he joined the Colonial forces and fought for the independence of the nation as a member of the First Regiment of Middlesex militia, state of New Jersey. At the time of his death, which occurred September 2, 1778, he was serving as a lieutenant colonel in that command. The regiment took

W. B. Hadden

Frances Haddock

part in the battles of Monmouth and Trenton and endured all the hardships of the memorable winter of 1777 at Valley Forge. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Woodbridge, New Jersey, and his wife died there many years later, passing away July 28, 1821. Their children were: Thomas, who was born June 24, 1761, wedded Mary Baker and died July 30, 1803. Nathaniel, who was born June 8, 1765, and died November 18, 1842, was married first to Mahala Marsh and in 1808 wedded Sarah Marsh Brown, while on the 13th of July, 1819, having also lost his second wife, he wedded Mary Halsey Marsh. Crowell, who was born March 8, 1768, and died September 11, 1833, is one of the heroes of the Revolution. He married his first wife, Elizabeth, in 1791, and after her demise he married Anna May. Christian, who was born March 8, 1775, and died February 6, 1840, was married in 1791 to William Harrison. Thomas Hadden, the third of the name, was the grandfather of our subject. He was born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, and wedded Mary Baker. Their children were as follows: John, who was born September 8, 1781, was married in 1808 to Rebekah Brown and died August 8, 1862. Catherine, who was born February 9, 1783, became the wife of Henry Hale and died October 15, 1831. Ephraim, who was born March 30, 1784, was married in 1810 to Isabel Manning Harriott and died March 6, 1872. Matthias, who was born April 5, 1786, died December 29, 1814. Cornelius, who was born May 2, 1789, died October 22, 1793. Jacob, who was born May 18, 1791, was married in 1816 to Sally Ayres and died December 22, 1871. Thomas, who was born June 1, 1794, died June 30, 1833. Cornelius, who was born April 16, 1798, and died February 27, 1895, first married Elizabeth Spencer and in 1850 wedded Mary Spencer Bennett. Mary, who was born January 16, 1801, and died April 8, 1879, was married in 1825 to Uzziah Bloodgood. The father of these children was a substantial farmer of Woodbridge, New Jersey, where he owned a well improved tract of land and a good home. There he died July 30, 1803, and his wife passed away September 6, 1842. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812, and was always loyal to his duties of citizenship. His homestead is still in the possession of his descendants.

Cornelius Hadden, the father of our subject, was born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, April 16, 1798, obtained a good education for that day, became a well informed man and possessed excellent business judgment. He was reared as a farmer, but in early life became a ship carpenter, working for the ship-building firm of Brown & Bell. When a young man he went to Athens, New York, establishing his home at that place. Twice married, he first wedded Elizabeth Spencer, who died in Athens nineteen years after their marriage. He then wedded her sister, Mary P. (Spencer)

Bennett, who was born at Albany, New York, August 6, 1813. The Spencers were probably of Holland lineage. The children of the second marriage were: Charles H., born February 26, 1852; and William B., who was born July 13, 1854. Cornelius Hadden followed ship-building at Athens, on the Hudson river, for many years, prospering in his undertakings and becoming a substantial citizen. He was for some years in partnership with William H. Morton, and the firm not only carried on operations on an extensive scale along the line of ship-building, but also engaged in merchandising.

On the 2d of May, 1861, Mr. Hadden arrived at Morris, Illinois, and a few days later settled on what is known as the Hadden homestead, having purchased the land in 1857. It was then a wild tract of one hundred and sixty acres, on which a log cabin had been built and a few acres had been broken. It was pleasantly situated on Waupecan creek and is well timbered. Mr. Hadden improved the property by developing the fields and erecting good buildings. At one time he was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Iowa, but sold that and spent his last days on his Illinois farm, where he died January 27, 1895. He was a man of excellent judgment, of retentive memory, and was well informed on all general topics. His sterling characteristics made him highly respected. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat and he was very firm in upholding his honest convictions.

William B. Hadden, whose name introduces this review, was born in Athens, New York, July 13, 1854, and with his parents came to Illinois when about seven years of age. He has therefore witnessed much of the growth and development of Grundy county. He obtained his education in the common schools, and through the summer months assisted in the work of field and meadow. Not long after attaining his majority he was married, in Morris, Illinois, January 26, 1876, by Rev. John Arthur Montgomery, to Laura Frances Allison, who was born in Stark county, Illinois, December 3, 1856, and is the daughter of Hiram and Elizabeth (Mann) Allison. Her paternal grandparents were John and Elizabeth (Stewart) Allison, the former an Ohio farmer of Scotch-Irish descent. His parents were James and Barbara Allison, and the former is the first of the name of whom we have record. John Allison died in the Buckeye state. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, enlisting at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He served for two hundred and seventy-four days under the command of Captain Coulson and Colonel Free. He and his wife located in Belmont county, Ohio, in early pioneer days. He married Elizabeth Stewart, who was born June 28, 1800. Their children were James, Jebsel, John, Hiram, George, Susan and Rebecca. The mother of these children was a daughter of Jesse

and Mary Stewart. Her father was born October 12, 1777, and died October 8, 1846. His wife was born March 12, 1762. Their children were Elizabeth, Rebecca, Matilda, Mary and James P. Jesse Stewart removed to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1844, having for some time previous lived in Marietta, that state.

He was living there at the time of the breaking out of the war of 1812. Responding to the country's call for troops, he enlisted under Captain Van Horn with the attachment that went northeast to Lake Champlain and thence by the Niagara route to Lake Erie. He participated in the battle on Lake Erie, under Commodore Perry, September 9, 1813. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs. Hadden. Hiram Allison was born in Ohio, December 3, 1825, attended the common schools and was married in Morristown, Belmont county, Ohio, by Alexander Ewing, to Elizabeth Mann, who was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1832, and is a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Elerick) Mann. Her father conducted a tavern at the foot of the Alleghany mountains, and there died in middle life. His wife was of sturdy Pennsylvania Dutch stock. They had seven children, namely: John, David, George, Holdridge, Mary, Catherine and Elizabeth. Hiram Allison was a carpenter by trade, who in 1852 came to Illinois and purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Stark county. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon the place, but he carefully developed it and after some years removed to Sedalia, Missouri, where he spent nine years. He then returned to Grundy county, where he carried on farming for some time, but is now living retired in St. Clairsville, Ohio, at the venerable age of seventy-five years, his toil in former years enabling him at the present time to rest in the enjoyment of a comfortable competence. His wife died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hadden, July 29, 1889. Their children were: Catherine Elizabeth, who was born January 12, 1849; Clara Agnes, who was born December 16, 1850; John W., born December 25, 1852; Hiram D., born March 15, 1855; Laura F., born December 3, 1856; Joseph A., born June 13, 1858; James L., born May 18, 1860; William O., born June 18, 1862; Margaret J., born March 29, 1864; and Samuel A., born July 7, 1868.

Mr. Hadden has remained upon the old homestead and has made many excellent improvements on the place. In 1896 he erected a large and commodious residence, in the modern style of architecture, and the home is tastefully furnished and pervaded with an air of culture and refinement. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hadden has been blessed with the following named: Lena Belle, who was born October 9, 1877, and died June 13, 1878; William M., born April 22, 1879; Samuel C., born

July 15, 1882; and Gardie A., who was born May 27, 1889, and died June 2, 1890. Mrs. Hadden and her sons are members of the Congregational church, and in his political views Mr. Hadden is a Jeffersonian Democrat. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend, and he has served as a member of the school board in his district for one term and is at present school trustee. He has lately been elected to the office of highway commissioner. Fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to Mazon Lodge, No. 826. He also holds membership with the Modern Woodmen camp at Wauponsee, being now venerable counsel. A well known and representative citizen and a man of unblemished character, he enjoys the respect and confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact, and his genial and pleasant disposition has made him very popular and has gained him many warm friends.

JAMES B. HOGE.

The Hoge family, of which the subject of this article is a sterling representative, came to Illinois from Virginia in the early times of this state, and from that time until the present have been noted for patriotism and all of the other qualities which constitute loyal citizens. William Hoge, the father of our subject, was a native of the Old Dominion, where he occupied a distinguished place, being a gentleman of wealth and influence, but, wisely foreseeing the possibilities of the great west, he determined to cast in his lot with the people of Illinois, and, settling in Grundy county, he spent the remainder of his useful life on these prairies.

His son, James B. Hoge, born May 6, 1834, was the first white child born within the limits of Grundy county. He attended the district schools and worked upon his father's farm until he reached his majority, when he purchased eighty acres of land in Saratoga township and embarked in agriculture upon his own responsibility. His home is located on the southeast quarter section of section 19, and numerous improvements and modern conveniences have been added by him to the place from time to time, thus rendering it one of the most desirable tracts of land in the county. He and his estimable wife have reared their children in noble principles, and they have reason to be proud of the manner in which they are meeting the responsibilities of life.

The marriage of James B. Hoge and Eliza J. Hatcher, of Belmont county, Ohio, was celebrated March 20, 1860. She is one of the seven children of Elijah and Jane (Craig) Hatcher, the others being named as follows: Noah J., a wealthy farmer of Lloydsville, Ohio; Rebecca and Rachel, the

latter the widow of Joseph Pancoast, are residents of Belmont county, Ohio; John, a retired farmer, married Mary Jane, daughter of Isaac Hoge, Sr., of Grundy county, Illinois; Sarah is the wife of Leander Moore, a prosperous farmer of Sheridan, Iowa; and Cecelia married Charles Pickering, who is a retired farmer of St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Seven children blessed the union of our subject and wife, and three of the number are yet living at home. William E. was born December 13, 1860, and at present is engaged in business in Chicago. For a wife he chose Harriet Dillon, of Tarkio, Missouri, and their children are: Alverda Hazel, Lucy Eliza and James Wilbur. John F., the second son, born December 13, 1862, is now employed as a reporter for the Los Angeles (California) Herald. Lucy, born March 4, 1866, departed this life June 29, 1868. Harry S., whose birth took place October 7, 1868, married Millie Kay, of Morris, Illinois, and they have two promising little sons, Frank Thomas and Walter Talmadge. The family dwell upon a farm adjoining the old homestead belonging to our subject. Florence C., born December 11, 1870; Minnie L., born June 29, 1876; and Fred J., born September 11, 1878, aid their parents in the work of the household and farm, and, like their elder brothers and sisters, are respected and esteemed by all who know them.

MARSHALL B. WILSON.

Marshall B. Wilson, who owns and occupies one of the beautiful homes of Morris, Illinois, is largely interested in agricultural pursuits and for some years has dealt extensively in stock. As a representative citizen of his county, a sketch of his life is of interest in this connection, and is as follows:

Marshall B. Wilson was born in Vienna township, Grundy county, Illinois, March 11, 1859, a son of Jonathan and Elma C. (Hoyle) Wilson, to whom further reference is made in the biography of Joseph A. Wilson in this work. Mr. Wilson was reared on the farm and remained at the home place until he was twenty-two years of age, the last few years of that time being in partnership with his father. At the age of twenty-two he began farming on his own responsibility, in Vienna township, this county, and subsequently removed to Erienna township, where he resided until February 20, 1892, since which time he has lived at his present home in Morris. He has the control of fourteen hundred acres of fine farming land, the farming operations of which he superintends, and for some years he has dealt extensively in stock, making a specialty of the cattle business.

Mr. Wilson was married February 20, 1884, to Martha Jane Holderman, a daughter of Abraham Holderman, one of the respected citizens of

Grundy county. Their union has been blessed in the birth of four children, namely: Mary, who died in the summer of 1899, at the age of fourteen years; Abbie; Grace, who died in childhood; and Ella Bird.

Mr. Wilson has always manifested a public spirit that is commendable. He affiliates with the Republican party, and while he has never been an aspirant for official honors he has performed with credit the public service that has devolved upon him. At this writing he is the assistant supervisor of Morris township. Also he has served on the Morris board of education. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, being a Knight Templar.

WILLIAM W. M'MANN.

Probably the oldest physician in point of years of practice in Grundy county is Dr. William W. McMann, of Gardner. He settled in the town in 1864 and engaged in the practice of his profession, in which he has continued to the present time, during a period of thirty-six years.

He was born in what is now the state of West Virginia, in 1838. His father, James McMann, was a native of the same state; and his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Lee, was descended from one branch of the family of that name that produced the famous General Robert E. Lee, of the southern Confederacy, and the Lees of Revolutionary fame. Our subject was a boy when brought to Ohio by his parents, who later removed to Noble county, Indiana, where they passed the remainder of their lives. He received a common-school education and began the study of medicine under the preceptorship of Dr. George W. Carr, of Noble county, Indiana, who was for some time his preceptor. At the time of the breaking out of the war of the rebellion he was a student in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia.

His college course was interrupted by his determination to enter the army, and on President Lincoln's call for seventy-five thousand volunteers, in 1861, like many another patriotic young man, he threw aside his books to enter the service of his country. The first call for troops having been for a period of three months, he enlisted for that time in Company A, McClellan's Dragoons, under Captain Barker, of Chicago; August 1, of that year, he reenlisted in the same command, with which he served until the spring of 1862, when he was detailed to the medical department for hospital service at General Stoneman's headquarters, as acting assistant surgeon under Dr. McMullen. He rejoined his regiment just before the severe battle at Williamsburg, Virginia, in which he was wounded, being shot in the left hand and wrist. The duties upon which he entered after his recovery in the medical

and surgical department of the service were of greater value to him than would have been several courses of lectures in a medical college, and the value of the practical knowledge he there obtained has been illustrated in a most successful professional career. The Doctor was sent to the hospital at Broad and Cherry streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and after the recovery from his wound he acted as assistant surgeon for several months, and acted in same capacity in the convalescent camp, Alexandria, Virginia, several months.

In 1864 the Doctor left the service of the United States and soon afterward located at Gardner, Grundy county, Illinois, where he immediately entered upon a most successful practice, and he has long occupied a high place in the medical profession of this part of Illinois. An ideal family physician, he has the confidence of the public in a remarkable degree. Besides being so successful in his medical and surgical practice, Dr. McMann is a good business man and has accumulated a competency. In politics he is a Republican. He is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight of Pythias.

Dr. McMann has been twice married. For his first wife he chose Eliza Jane Atkinson. His present wife, whom he married October 11, 1888, was Libbie Jones, a native of Ohio. By his first marriage he has a daughter, named Maud Magnolia, who is now the wife of Edwin Wymer, M. D., of Chicago, Illinois. The Doctor is a lover of home and home interests, and everything that pertains to the development and prosperity of the community in which he lives has his generous and substantial support. He is no less public-spirited than patriotic, and his friendly sympathies have endeared him to all with whom he has come in intimate contact; and those who know him best like him best, for they know him as a friend.

REUBEN SHERMAN HURD.

When the northern section of Illinois was still in the period of its pioneer development, when its lands were wild and the work of civilization was being begun by those who were to play an active part in the progress and improvement of the state, Reuben S. Hurd came to the west. He was born in Oneida county, New York, February 12, 1815, a son of Reuben and Amanda (Parker) Hurd, natives of Connecticut. In their family of ten children he was the fifth in order of birth. Upon his father's farm he was reared, and in 1838, at the age of twenty-three, he came to Illinois, locating one hundred and eight acres of land in Kendall county. Later he returned to New York and married Sophronia S. Keith. With his wife he

returned to Kendall county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until 1866, when his wife died.

The following year he sold his farm and took up his residence in Morris. He was a successful agriculturist and although he was in very limited circumstances when he emigrated to the west he possessed a very desirable competence on his retirement from labor. His unfailing energy, strong determination and marked enterprise enabled him to so conduct his business affairs that he secured excellent financial returns. In the fall of 1867 he was again married, his second union being with Miss Minnie A. Hale. For fifteen years thereafter he and his wife traveled in various parts of the United States, hoping to benefit his health through change of scene. They have always made Morris their home, however, and are widely and favorably known in this city.

GEORGE PRESTON.

The fitting reward of a well spent and active business career is an honored retirement from labor in which one has opportunity to enjoy the fruits of former toil. Such an opportunity has been vouchsafed to Mr. Preston, one of the pioneer settlers and substantial citizens of Grundy county, who is now living retired in Mazon. He has attained the age of seventy-seven years and has the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded to those who have reached the downward slope of life. He was born September 22, 1822, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, his parents being Elijah and Martha (Wheatley) Preston. His father was a son of William and Zuba (Sweet) Preston. The grandfather was a native of Vermont and by occupation a farmer. In early pioneer days he went to Ohio, making the journey by boat a part of the way. In old age he located in Tuscarawas county, on the farm owned by his son Elijah, and there spent his remaining days, his death occurring at the age of sixty-three years. He was a very industrious and energetic man and belonged to that class of pioneers who have laid the foundation for the present prosperity of our country. His children were: Elijah, William, Oliver, John, James, Sallie, Betsey, Polly and Zuba.

Elijah Preston, the father of our subject, was born in Vermont, April 16, 1799, and received such educational privileges as were afforded by the common schools of that time. He was reared upon a farm, and when about sixteen years of age accompanied his father on his removal to Ohio, the first location of the family being made on the Ohio river, not far from Pittsburg. Elijah Preston early became familiar with the

George Preston

Jane Preston

arduous task of developing new land and throughout his life engaged in the tilling of the soil. He was married in Virginia to Martha Wheatley, a native of the Green Mountain state, born October 3, 1799, and a daughter of George Wheatley. Her father was a Virginian by birth and for some time resided in West Virginia, not far from the Ohio river or from the city of Wheeling. By occupation he was a miller. In the '50s he came to Illinois, locating just across the river from St. Louis, and his death occurred in East St. Louis, when he had attained the age of seventy-one years. His life was characterized by marked industry. His children were: George, born September 22, 1822; William, November 6, 1825; Samuel, John, Elijah, Nancy, Ann, Martha, Mary, Sarah and Jane.

After his marriage Elijah Preston located in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of timber land. By hard work and close application he cleared his fields and made a good pioneer home, to which he added by additional purchase until he was the owner of one hundred and eighty acres. About 1834, however, he sold that property and removed to Guernsey county, Ohio, where he purchased an improved farm, upon which he lived until 1851, when he disposed of that and came to Grundy county, Illinois. Here he secured one hundred and sixty acres of partly improved land in Mazon township, a small amount of the land having been broken and a little cabin erected thereon. A week later Mr. Preston went by canal to Chicago and purchased lumber with which to build a barn and also to enlarge his house. He returned a week later and was then taken ill with cholera and died after fifteen days. Both he and his wife were consistent and faithful members of the Methodist church in early life but afterward joined the United Brethren church. Mr. Preston served as a class-leader in Ohio and was actively interested in whatever tended to advance the cause of Christianity. His life was one of activity and through his enterprising efforts he acquired a good home. In politics he was an old-line Whig in early life and when the subject of slavery became the dominant issue he joined the Abolition party.

From the old family Bible the following record of the children is obtained: George, the eldest son, was born September 22, 1822, and was married April 30, 1840, to Elizabeth Carnes. William, born November 6, 1825, was married May 18, 1847, to Phebe Randal. James D., born May 7, 1828, was married March 23, 1848, to Elizabeth Huffman. Jane, born December 8, 1830, became the wife of William Keepers on the 19th of May, 1847. Sarah, born November 3, 1832, was married March 27, 1851, to Alexander Lotta. Elijah, born January 4, 1835, died March 26, 1848. Finley, born March 22, 1837, died February 20, 1855. Martha Ann, born May 9, 1839, was married November 15, 1855, to George Paxton and

died December 17, 1867. Asbury, born November 21, 1841, was a soldier of the civil war. He went to the front with an Illinois regiment and died at Vicksburg during the service. Albert, born July 15, 1846, was also a soldier and died in Streator, Illinois, December 8, 1879. The father of these children died August 15, 1851. In the old Wheatley family Bible the following record is given: George Wheatley, Sr., was born September 2, 1775, and died April 22, 1845. Jane Nelson Wheatley, his wife, was born January 4, 1778, and died October 3, 1829. Their children were: Ann, who was called Nancy, was born November 5, 1797; Martha was born October 3, 1799; John, December 7, 1801, and died June 21, 1818; Mary was born June 20, 1804; Sarah, February 3, 1806; Warren was born March 19, 1803, and died August 23, 1849; Samuel was born May 16, 1810; William, June 3, 1812; Jane, August 1, 1814; George was born November 22, 1816, and died March 1, 1841; John Nelson was born March 23, 1819; and Eliza P., June 22, 1821.

George Preston, whose name introduces this review, received a limited education in the subscription schools. His boyhood days were spent on the farm and at the age of twelve years he accompanied his parents on their removal to Guernsey county, Ohio, driving a four-horse team on the journey. He married Elizabeth Carnes, of that county, and as he was only eighteen years of age and his bride was about the same age, their parents objected to their marriage. Determining, however, to unite their destinies without delay, they took the opportunity when their respective fathers were attending court to run away, and, crossing the line into West Virginia, where no license was required, they were there married. Mrs. Preston was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, her father, John Carnes, being one of its pioneers. He afterward removed to Hocking county, Ohio. His children were: John, William, Matilda, Elizabeth, Mary, Isabel, Caroline and Margaret. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Preston three children were born: William C., born April 4, 1846; Mary, born July 20, 1852; and George W., born June 7, 1855.

The young couple had begun their domestic life upon his father's old homestead farm in Tuscarawas county, where they remained for eight years. On the 3d of June, 1851, they started for Illinois and arrived at Coal City, Grundy county, on the 2d of July. Mr. Preston had two brothers, William and James, who were then living in the town. The journey was made with horses and the party numbered five different families who had been neighbors in Guernsey county, Ohio, and had come to the west to seek their fortunes. Elijah Preston, the father of our subject, with his family, was of the party, together with Abraham Carter and William Keepers, who were accompanied by their respective families. At

night they would camp out by the wayside, sleeping in their wagons, and the trip proved a very pleasant one until the last night, when a hard rain and wind storm occurred. Previous to that there had been but one slight shower. After reaching Grundy county Mr. Preston established his home in Good Farm township, where he rented land for two years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres, a wild tract of prairie land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but with characteristic energy, however, he developed and added to it until he had four hundred and eighty acres of rich, valuable land, all under a high state of cultivation and all in Good Farm township. He erected thereon substantial buildings and made many excellent improvements. Indolence and idleness formed no part of his nature and his untiring efforts brought to him prosperity which enabled him, after many years of active toil, to put aside all business cares. His first serious trouble in his new home was the death of his wife. She was born March 21, 1823, and passed away December 22, 1857, after fourteen years of happy married life, their wedding having been celebrated April 23, 1840. Mr. Preston was again married, in old Mazon, his second union being with Jane Johnston, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 13, 1823, a daughter of Andrew and Mary (Thompson) Johnston.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Preston were members of the Congregational church and in politics he is a Republican. He has always taken a deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare and progress of the community and has always advocated good roads. In 1882 he purchased property in Mazon and to each of his three children he gave eighty acres of land. He is one of the owners of the opera house in Mazon and is in comfortable circumstances. All who know him esteem him for his sterling worth, and his career has been characterized by energy, perseverance and good management and above all by honorable dealing.

LUKE HALE, M. D.

One of the pioneer representatives of the medical profession in Morris is Dr. Luke Hale, and the older citizens of Grundy county yet remember him as a man of ability in the line of his chosen calling and as a citizen whose upright life commended him to their confidence and regard. He was born in the old Granite state on the 8th of October, 1796, and after preparing for the medical profession began practicing in Brandon, Vermont. At length he determined to seek a home in the west, believing an excellent opening was afforded in this new but rapidly developing country. Accordingly he

took up his abode in McHenry county, in 1836, upon a farm on which the town of Ringwood was afterward built. In 1842 he removed to Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, where he successfully engaged in the practice of medicine until 1857. A year later he arrived in Morris, and here he engaged in the prosecution of his profession until his death. His knowledge of the science of medicine was thorough and accurate for that day, and he received and merited a liberal patronage.

The Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Amelia Clifford, a native of Connecticut, and their children were as follows: Anna Eliza B., the wife of Dr. Rosencranz, of Elgin; Dr. Roscoe L., now a druggist of Sedalia, Missouri; Minnie A., the wife of R. S. Hurd, of Morris; William C.; Martin B., who resides in Morris; and Fannie A., who became the wife of W. J. Copp, of Hamilton, Canada. Of these children only Mrs. Hurd and Martin B. Hale now reside in Morris. They are both highly respected citizens, and the lady is an active member of the Congregational church. The mother died in Morris in 1873. She was an ardent advocate of abolition principles and rendered effective assistance to the fleeing slaves who were making their way northward on the "underground railroad." She was a lady of many admirable qualities and characteristics, and, like Dr. Hale, she enjoyed the friendship and high regard of many of the citizens of Morris and the surrounding country.

JOHN BARTON.

The number of residents of Grundy county of English nativity is not large, but in this county, as elsewhere, residents of English birth have demonstrated their capacity for good citizenship. The Englishman is usually enterprising, and he is always intelligent, liberal and patriotic. He is imbued with the same spirit of progressiveness that animates his cousin, the Yankee, and readily and cordially joins hands with the latter in the work of civilization and development. John Barton, of Gardner, Grundy county, Illinois, has illustrated this fact in his every-day life and proven it by his success. Proud that he is an Englishman,—for when you look the world over you come to the conclusion that it is a good thing to be an Englishman,—he is no less proud that he is an American also,—an American in progressiveness, in patriotism, in love for humanity.

He first saw the light in Lincolnshire, England, one day in 1844. His father, Samuel Barton, never came to this country. Francis, a brother, came previously, and is now living at Wheaton, Illinois. John was educated in

his native England and learned the trade of milling. In 1871 he came to America, and, making his way west to Illinois, located at Keithsburg, in Mercer county, where he lived four years, and after that he engaged in farming near that village. In 1881 he became a resident at Gardner, and until 1888 was employed by Louis Germain in the operation of the machinery of the elevator at that place.

Mr. Barton was the assessor of Greenfield township from 1891 to 1897, inclusive. He has been a justice of the peace since 1892 and notary public since 1893. He is a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in the year immediately preceding his coming to Gardner he was the pastor of a church near Bushnell, Illinois. He still occasionally fills appointments. In his political affiliations he is a Republican. His public spirit has caused him to take an interest in many movements planned for the good of the public, and he is regarded as a worthy and most useful citizen. As a Christian and a preacher of the word of God, he naturally feels a deep interest in all religious work, which he aids so far as possible whenever opportunity is presented. The moral example of his life is of high utility in the community, and as a public official he perhaps exemplifies the highest conception of official integrity and faithfulness as brilliantly as any public functionary in the country.

In 1872 Mr. Barton was married, at Keithsburg, Illinois, to Miss Emma Ball. Mr. and Mrs. Barton have five children,—one son and four daughters,—named as follows: George, Mary, Lizzie, Lottie and Lulu. All of them except the youngest are graduates of the high school at Gardner. George has been bookkeeper for the Gardner-Wilmington Coal Company since 1893.

LEWIS P. LOTT.

The name of Lewis P. Lott well deserves a prominent place in the pages of the history of Grundy county, for during the earlier years of his residence in Morris he was an active factor in the business life of the city and later held many offices to which he was called by his fellow townsmen, who recognized his worth and ability and felt that the confidence that they reposed in him would never be betrayed. More than fourteen years have passed since his life's labors were ended, but his memory is cherished by all who knew him, and the record of his career is a credit to the county of his adoption.

Mr. Lott was numbered among the native sons of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Covert, in Seneca county, New York, August 5,

1813. His parents were Zephaniah and Permilla (Phelps) Lott, the former of Holland lineage and the latter of English descent. The family is noted for longevity, the paternal grandfather of our subject having died at the extreme old age of one hundred and four years, while his wife passed away at the age of one hundred and six years. Zephaniah Lott was born in Pennsylvania in 1775, and in early life removed to New York, where he was married. The fondness for home and the dislike of removing to a new locality led to his remaining upon one farm for sixty years. He died in 1855, at the age of eighty years, and his wife, who was born in Connecticut in 1780, died in 1863, at the age of eighty-three years. This worthy couple were the parents of thirteen children.

In the common schools of his native state Lewis P. Lott pursued his education till his fourteenth year, when he went to Canandaigua, New York, where he learned the printer's trade, spending six years at that place. At the expiration of that period, in 1832, he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, and there worked for two years as a journeyman printer, after which he formed a partnership with his friend A. S. Sanford and opened a general book and stationery store and job printing office. For several years they conducted a flourishing business, but in 1842 Mr. Lott sold out and removed to Kirtland, Ohio, where he engaged in manufacturing pumps, pails, tubs, household furniture and other wooden ware. This business was attended with indifferent success, and after carrying on his operations along that line for two and a half years he sold out and went to Warren, Ohio, where he was engaged in general merchandising. In the latter venture he prospered, but in 1846 his store was destroyed by fire, which led to his removal to Racine, Wisconsin, where he engaged in merchandising for two years.

Mr. Lott removed for the last time in the spring of 1848, when he took up his abode in Morris, bringing with him his stock of general merchandise. Here he opened a store and successfully conducted the same until 1860, when he sold out to his partner, Horace Hulburd. He then retired from business with a competency that he had acquired through his own efforts. From an early age he depended solely upon his labors for whatever he had and by continuous industry, economy and well-directed labor he was enabled to save some money, each year augmenting his capital as a result of his earnest labors. Indolence and idleness were utterly foreign to his nature, and although he retired from the commercial world he was not content to have no care and in consequence accepted the position of deputy circuit court clerk, in which capacity he efficiently served for eight years, managing the affairs of the office with skill and discrimination. Possessed of unusual business tact and ability, every business with which he became connected rapidly assumed an orderly, systematic and prosperous condition.

He invested his capital from time to time in real estate and thus became an extensive owner of farm lands, the management of which largely occupied his time through his later years. However, he was frequently forced to serve his fellow citizens in various positions of trust. In 1856 he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors and served for three years. For about fifteen years he served as a member of the board of aldermen and exercised his official prerogatives to promote the substantial development and improvement of the city. In 1870 he was elected justice of the peace, in which office he served until his death, administering its affairs with an impartial hand. As the treasurer of the school board he successfully controlled the financial interests of education for several years.

In Cleveland, Ohio, on the 22d of February, 1844, Mr. Lott was united in marriage to Miss Delia Lloyd Clark, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1821. Her parents removed to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1839, where they spent the residue of their days. Mrs. Lott survives her husband and resides at her home in Morris with her only living son, Edward L. Lott. She is still in possession of good health and has always been an active worker in the church and in charitable organizations. Her kindly manner has won her the love of many friends and all who know her esteem her highly. To Mr. and Mrs. Lott were born four sons, two of whom died in infancy, while Frank Clark died in his fourteenth year.

The eldest son, Edward L. Lott, is now living with his mother in Morris, and for several years has superintended the affairs connected with his father's estate. Formerly he was engaged in the drug business, having a store in Grand Tower, Illinois, for fourteen years, while for five years he conducted a drug store in Morris. His honorable dealing and trustworthiness have gained him an enviable position in business circles, and is a valued resident of the community.

Mr. Lott, of this sketch, also held a membership in the Masonic order, having attained the Knight Templar degree and held almost every office in the lodge, chapter and commandery. For several years he was a prominent Odd Fellow, but for some time prior to his death was a demitted member. In early life he gave his political support to the Whig party, was afterward an Abolitionist and Free-soiler, and when the Republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks and was one of its heartiest advocates throughout the remainder of his life. Although he held office several years they came to him unsought, being given him in recognition of his fitness for public trusts. Endowed by nature with sound judgment and an accurate, discriminating mind, he never feared that laborious attention to business so necessary to achieve success, and this unusual quality was ever guided by a sense of moral right which

would tolerate the employment only of such means as would bear the most rigid examination, and by a fairness of intention that neither sought nor required disguise.

WILLIAM C. HASKINS.

One of the most venerable and worthy citizens of Good Farm township is William Cunningham Haskins, who was born April 26, 1818, in Delaware county, Ohio, the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Butler) Haskins. The father was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Haskins and the family is of sterling English Puritan stock. The original American ancestors located on Martha's Vineyard, on the Massachusetts coast, and at a later day settled in the Berkshire hills in the Bay state. Thomas Haskins, the grandfather of our subject, was a farmer in Hampshire county, Massachusetts. They had three children: Elizabeth, Hannah and Thomas. His entire life was spent in the Bay state, where he died when about fifty years of age. He had a brother who served in the Revolutionary war and was shot in the forehead in a battle near Boston, his death resulting instantly.

Jeremiah Haskins, the father of our subject, was born in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, on the 16th of December, 1792, and when a young man he emigrated westward to Dayton, Ohio, the state being then on the wild western frontier. At the time of the second war with England he entered the service, loyally defending his country in that struggle. He was one of the army surrounded by General Hall at Detroit, and in Delaware county, Ohio, he married Miss Mary Butler, who was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, May 26, 1793, a daughter of Jethro and Rebecca (Dunham) Butler. Jethro Butler was of English Puritan descent and was born in Massachusetts. In early life he went to sea, sailing on a number of whaling voyages to the polar regions. In later life he became a prosperous farmer in Berkshire county, Massachusetts. He lived to a venerable age, dying on the old homestead where his wife also spent her last days. Their children were Jethro, Daniel, David, Cornelius, Levi, George, Mary, Sarah, Lydia, Persis, Rebecca, Ruth and Lucinda. After his marriage, Jeremiah Haskins located on a farm in Delaware county, Ohio, becoming the owner of two hundred and seventy-one acres of land, nearly all of which he bought for three dollars per acre at a very early period in the development of the county. He prospered in his undertakings and was the possessor of a comfortable competence at the time of his death, which occurred December 6, 1869, when he had passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey. He was a member of the Baptist church, a devout Christian gentleman, and for more than thirty years served as a deacon. His early

Eliza J. Glover Jeremiah E. Haskins

Wm. C. Haskins Martha W. Haskins

political support was given to the Whig party and later he became a stanch Republican. For ten years he held the office of justice of the peace. His life was honorable, upright and industrious and he was a pioneer of sterling worth and integrity. His children were James, Butler and William C.

The last named obtained a good common-school education for that day, was reared to farm life and when about twenty-three years of age, in Delaware county, on the 3d of December, 1840, was married to Miss Martha W. Eaton, whose birth occurred December 6, 1823. Her parents were David and Mary (Roloson) Eaton. Her father was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, November 4, 1798, and was a son of Joseph and Bathsheba (Sackett) Eaton, the former a son of David and a grandson of John Eaton. The last named was a son of Joseph Eaton, and his father, who also bore the name of John Eaton, was the founder of the family in America, coming to this country from Wales in 1686 and settling in Pennsylvania. Joseph Eaton became one of the pioneers of Delaware county, Ohio, where he located in 1805, when a young man. Here he cleared and developed a fine farm and from time to time extended its boundaries by additional purchases until he was the owner of twelve hundred acres. He became both a wealthy and prominent citizen of his community and gave to each of his sons a farm. In the Baptist church he held membership and filled the office of deacon. He was the first man elected to the position of surveyor of Delaware county, was three times a member of the state legislature and for many years was a justice of the peace. His ability well qualified him for positions of prominence and he was a recognized leader in the thought and action concerning the welfare of his state and county, being a thorough student of economics and public questions. He died in 1825, at the age of fifty-two years, and his community lost one of its most prominent representatives. His children were: Isaac, James, George, David, Joseph, Ruth, Mary, Martha and Annie. Three of the sons of Joseph Eaton were ministers of the Baptist church, Isaac, George and Joseph. The first named was also a farmer of Iowa and had six sons in the civil war. George was for a time president of Hamilton College, in New York, and went to the Holy Land, visiting Jerusalem in the interest of his church. Joseph was president of the College at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and was also an editor.

David Eaton, the father of Mrs. Haskins, spent a portion of his boyhood in Pennsylvania, and in 1805 went with his parents to the Buckeye state. He wedded Mary Roloson, who was born in Wantage township, Sussex county, New Jersey, January 16, 1800, a daughter of John and Lydia (Van Sickle) Roloson. Her father was a cooper by trade, and, on removing to Ohio, located in Pickaway county, whence he went to Delaware county, where he developed a farm of one hundred acres, making his home there

until his death, which occurred after he had reached the advanced age of over one hundred years. His children were Jacob and Joseph, twins; Levi; Joel; Mary; Eliza and Irene. After their marriage David Eaton and his wife located on a farm of one hundred and ten acres, much of which he placed under a high state of cultivation, transforming it into a valuable tract of land, whereon he remained until his death, which occurred at the comparatively early age of thirty-seven years. He was a member of the Baptist church and was a good citizen. He had but two children,—Martha W. and Eliza J. Thus it will be seen that the present generation of the Haskins family are descended from honored colonial families, largely of Puritan origin. Several representatives of the name were patriots of the Revolutionary war and others left the impress of their individuality upon many of the events affecting the welfare of the state and nation.

Mr. and Mrs. Haskins began their domestic life in Delaware county, on a farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres, of which eighty acres had been placed under the plow. He cleared thirty acres of the remainder, erected a residence and otherwise improved the farm, making it a valuable property. He there resided from 1840 until 1865, when he came to Illinois, taking up his abode near Gardner, Grundy county. For a number of years he carried on agricultural pursuits in that locality, and in 1879 purchased his present property, consisting of eighty acres of valuable land, all of which was broken, with the exception of a ten-acre tract. William Haskins, assisted by his son Jeremiah, greatly improved the farm and erected commodious and substantial buildings, and now he has one of the most desirable and attractive places in this section of the state.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. William Haskins are Jeremiah Eaton, who was born October 11, 1841, and Eliza Jane, born November 13, 1848. Mrs. Haskins and her daughter are members of the Baptist church, with which denomination she has been identified since 1843. Mr. Haskins is not a communicant, but contributes liberally to the support of the church and takes an active interest in its work.

In politics he is a stanch Republican. His first presidential vote was cast for William Henry Harrison in the famous log-cabin and hard-cider campaign. He also voted for John Charles Fremont, the first Republican candidate for the presidency, and for the immortal Lincoln. His allegiance to the party has been unwavering since its organization, and he has done all in his power to promote its growth and secure its success. In 1888 he served as the assessor of the township, and has been a member of the school board. He has always sustained a high reputation as a moral and temperate man, whose integrity is above question and whose upright life is well worthy of emulation.

Jeremiah E. Haskins, his son, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, October 11, 1841, and acquired a good common-school education. Throughout his business career he has carried on agricultural pursuits. Since 1865 he has been identified with the farming interests of Illinois, having come to this state with his parents. He was married December 27, 1897, in Morris, Illinois, to Mary Ellen Lewis, who was born on the 1st of August, 1877, in England, a daughter of Richard and Winifred (Williams) Lewis. Her father came to America in 1878 and engaged in mining in Braidwood. He then settled near Braceville, Ohio, on a farm, where he is yet living. His children are Mary E., Jane Ann and Matthew. In politics Mr. Lewis is a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Haskins have one child, Martha A., who was born February 17, 1899. Jeremiah Haskins is a substantial farmer, who carefully conducts his business affairs and has thus become the possessor of a valuable property. He holds membership in the Baptist church, is serving as one of its trustees, and in politics is a Republican.

Eliza Jane Haskins, the daughter of William C. Haskins, was married April 24, 1866, to Thomas H. Glover, who is a merchant of Joplin, Missouri. Their children are Claud T., Florence E., Cora J., Edna Pearl and Boyd H.

ENOS FIELD.

In the way of modern improvements Morris, Illinois, is not behind her sister towns of the state, and among these improvements is its electric-light plant, of which it has just reason to be proud. The Field Electric Light Company, which operates this plant, was incorporated in 1891, with a capital stock of thirty thousand dollars, and on October 2d of that year the plant was put in successful operation. The prime mover and organizer of the above-named company was Captain Enos Field. He is still actively interested in it, and is regarded as one of the most enterprising and public-spirited citizens of the town. Briefly, a sketch of his life is as follows:

Enos Field was born in Windom Center, New York, August 15, 1834, and traces his ancestry back from the same source from which the distinguished Cyrus W. Field sprang. The parents of Enos Field were Cyrus and Malissa (Clark) Field. The latter was born in Connecticut, August 15, 1806, a daughter of Jordan Clark, who was of English descent, and it is supposed was a native of Connecticut. Cyrus Field was born in New York state in June, 1806. They were married in 1828; in 1837 moved to Delaware county, Ohio, and in 1845 came to Illinois, locating at Ottawa, LaSalle county. Both died at this place, Mr. Field in 1885 and his wife in 1886. Their children were as follows: Anna; Evander, who died in 1872; Enos.

whose name introduces this sketch; Emily, deceased; Norton, deceased; and Chapman, who was killed in the army during the civil war.

The father of these children was by trade a carpenter, at which he worked in early life, but later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he followed for a number of years. Politically he was an old-line Whig up to the time the Republican party was organized, after which he gave his support to it. When the civil war came on he and two of his sons offered their services to the Union. He was a member of the Fifty-third Illinois Infantry; was a participant in the battle of Shiloh, and was in the service six or eight months, at the end of that time being honorably discharged on account of ill health, he having contracted a chronic disease in the army. One son, Norton, was in the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, and Chapman first entered the service as a member of the Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry, later re-enlisting at St. Louis in the Marine Brigade on the "Autocrat," and meeting death bravely at the siege of Vicksburg.

When Enos Field was a boy he was bound out at Cincinnati to a tailor for a term of seven years, and remained with him three years of that time. In the meantime the family had moved to Illinois, as already stated, and in the fall of 1847 Cyrus Field returned to Cincinnati and brought his son Enos home with him. Here the youth was for some time engaged in farm work. From 1854 to 1881 Mr. Field's interests were chiefly on the canal. He was the owner of a steamer and barges which he ran for a number of years, and it was while he was thus engaged that he received the title of captain. In this business he got his start in the financial world. In the meantime he spent some months in Texas and Tennessee in railroad construction work, and was thus occupied in the former state at the time the civil war broke out. He retired from boating in 1881, and the next eleven years was engaged in the saloon business in Wilmington, Illinois. At that place he had a third interest in the Electric Light and Power Company, which he sold just previous to his removal to Morris and his investment in the electric-light plant at this place. He has resided here since August 28, 1891.

Mr. Field was married January 1, 1871, to Miss Theresa Mead, a native of Twelve-Mile Grove, Illinois, and they have had four children, namely: Roy, interested in business with his father; Allie, who died at the age of nine years; Frank, who died at the age of two and a half years; and Bessie.

JOHN J. BRINCKERHOFF, M. D.

It is said "Gray hairs are honorable," but gray hairs do not necessarily imply a monopoly by those they adorn of all the wisdom in the walk of life

to which such persons belong. This is the age of the young man, especially in professional circles, as is illustrated by the career of Dr. John J. Brinckerhoff, of Minooka, who, although one of the younger members of the medical profession, has already taken a prominent place in the ranks of the fraternity in Grundy county, Illinois, notwithstanding he located at Minooka as late as 1897.

Doctor Brinckerhoff is a native of Illinois, having been born in Will county, January 18, 1869, a son of John Brinckerhoff, who was born at Watervliet, New York. The latter was a son of Martin Brinckerhoff, who was one of the pioneers of Will county, Illinois. John Brinckerhoff married Rebecca Breckinridge, a native of Canada. Martin Brinckerhoff, a brother of John, was a soldier in the war of the rebellion and died in the service.

Dr. Brinckerhoff is one of six brothers, the two oldest of whom are also physicians, viz.: Dr. C. E. Brinckerhoff, of Chicago, Illinois, and Dr. G. E. Brinckerhoff, of Oakland, California. Martin S. is next in order of birth, followed in the sequence of their names by Dr. John J., subject of this sketch; Howard H.; Gertrude R., and Elmer E., the youngest.

Dr. Brinckerhoff received his early education at the public schools and at Joliet high school. In 1889 he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he did regular work for four years, receiving, in 1893, from that institution the degree of Ph. B. For a year thereafter he was engaged in teaching, and in 1894 took his first course of medical lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in the class of 1897, with the degree of M. D.; and soon afterward he located at Minooka and engaged in the practice of his profession. In 1898 he established a drug store, which he has developed into a mercantile success.

November 10, 1897, Dr. Brinckerhoff was married to Miss Julia Scheibe, a native of Lockport, Illinois. He is a member of the Order of Modern Woodmen and of the Court of Honor. Possessed of a thorough literary and professional education, of winning manners and exemplary business methods, public-spirited to an extraordinary degree, he is achieving a thorough and permanent success and making friends among all classes of people.

EDWARD L. CLOVER.

Among the practitioners of the bar at Morris is this gentleman, who has gained prestige in the legal profession. He is a western man by birth, training and preference, and possesses the true western spirit of diligence

and enterprise, a spirit which has enabled many men to rise rapidly from humble positions to places of considerable prominence.

Mr. Clover was born in Hardin county, Iowa, January 25, 1861, and is a son of Gerettus and Susan D. (Maddox) Clover. The father was born in Indiana and was a son of John Clover, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and became a pioneer of Grundy county, Illinois, settling on eighty acres of land in Highland township, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death. He located in the midst of a tract of timberland, his nearest neighbor being at that time four miles distant. With the pioneer development of the county he was actively identified, and in an early day he served as a county commissioner. He had eighteen children, but Gerettus is the only one now living in Grundy county, he being a resident of Gardner. He accompanied his parents in their removal to Illinois and was married in 1855, in Iowa, to Miss Susan D. Maddox. He afterward removed to Kansas and later returned to the Hawkeye state, where he was living at the time of his enlistment in the Union army. In 1862 he joined the boys in blue of Company E, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, and for thirty-seven months loyally followed the old flag and fought for the cause it represented. When the war was over he located on a farm near Mazon, Grundy county, where he made his home until 1879, when he removed to Oswego, Kansas. Three years later, in 1882, he returned to Illinois and has since lived a retired life in Gardner, being one of the respected citizens of that locality.

E. L. Clover, whose name introduces this review, was reared in Iowa, Kansas and Illinois. He spent his boyhood days on the farm and in the common schools acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by four months' study in a private school and six months' study in a high school in Kansas. Subsequently he studied law and on the 26th of November, 1881, when twenty years of age, was admitted to the bar. He did not at once engage in practice, however, but devoted his energies to school-teaching. For six months he had charge of a country school and then joined his parents in Gardner, where he engaged in teaching for one term. He was also employed for one term as a teacher in Mazon, and after his marriage he formed a partnership with his brother, Thomas F., for the practice of law in Braceville, Illinois. In September, 1885, when his father was made the postmaster of Gardner, he became the deputy and filled that position until February, 1886, when he removed to Morris. Here he served as the deputy postmaster until March, 1887, and on the fifteenth of that month he opened a law office, since which time he has been accounted one of the leading representatives of the profession in this city. In April, 1887, he was elected the city attorney and discharged his duties so ably that he was continued in the office for three successive terms.

Mr. Clover was united in marriage, May 20, 1884, to Jessie M. Coles, of Grundy county, and their union has been blessed with one daughter, Inez J. Mr. Clover is a Democrat in his political affiliations, and socially he is a Master Mason and a member of the Sons of Veterans. He was a candidate for judge of the thirteenth judicial district, in 1897, and though defeated he reduced the usual Republican majority from seven thousand to two thousand—a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence which his fellow citizens have in his professional ability. His devotion to his clients' interests is proverbial, and he prepares his cases with such thoroughness and precision that he seldom fails to win the verdict desired, and with most of the important litigation of the county he is therefore connected.

THOMAS H. SYKES.

No more capable official could have been selected to manage the interests of the poor farm in Grundy county than Thomas Herbert Sykes, who since 1882 has been in charge and has made it a model farm in every respect. He is not only an enterprising agriculturist, but is a capable business man and in the care of the inmates of the farm has the greatest regard for sanitation and comfort, his treatment of the poor being both kindly and just.

Mr. Sykes is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Lancashire, August 2, 1840, his parents being Joseph and Lydia (Whitehead) Sykes, who were also natives of England. In the public and night schools of that country our subject acquired his education, and in 1865, when twenty-five years of age, bade farewell to the land of his birth and sailed for America. He spent a few days in New York city and then went to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, but not being pleased with that locality, he resumed his westward journey and took up his abode in Morris. By occupation he was a coal-miner and followed that pursuit till 1882, becoming the owner of a mine which he operated on a moderate scale. In that year he was selected to take charge of the poor farm and agreed to give it one year's trial. During that time he so ably managed its interests that he was urged to continue in the position and has since been in charge. In his farming operations he follows the most progressive methods, and the well tilled fields and cultivated gardens yield good returns for his labor. He undertook the work of remodeling and beautifying the place, and his untiring efforts and excellent ideas soon wrought very desirable changes. He graded the yard, planted flowers, remodeled the house and enlarged it by building additions. The large dining-room, kitchen and present sitting-room for the women were all

planned and built under his direction, while numerous smaller improvements add to the homelike appearance of the place, contributing to the comfort of the inmates. Mrs. Sykes personally superintends the kitchen and the cuisine and her economy and well formed plans have contributed not a little to the success which has attended the farm under the management of her husband.

In 1862 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Sykes and Miss Betty Cryer, who has indeed been to him a faithful companion and helpmeet. She was born in England and her parents, William and Ann Cryer, were both natives of Lancastershire. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Sykes are Edwin, now deceased; Lydia, wife of Charles Wood, who is living in Mazon, Illinois; Ellen, deceased; Robert, who is married and resides in Wauponsee township, Grundy county; Mary Anna, wife of James Wood, of Wauponsee township; Frank, who is married and is a resident farmer of the same township; Charles Edward, who is married and resides at home; William, deceased; and Myrtle Ivy, who also is living with her parents.

In his political affiliations Mr. Sykes is a Republican. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and his life is characterized by earnest Christian principles and conduct. In his business he has met with creditable success and is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Wauponsee township. He is one of the most capable county officials, and no more worthy incumbent has ever occupied the position of superintendent of the poor farm. He possesses excellent executive ability, sound judgment and indefatigable industry—qualities which have made him a most commendable and painstaking public official.

WILLIAM T. HOPKINS.

William T. Hopkins, deceased, was one of the founders and builders of Morris and a prominent character in the history of the city and of Grundy county. He was born in Lincoln county, Maine, October 5, 1819. His parents were David and Esther (Trask) Hopkins, both natives of Maine. His father, a farmer by occupation, was born in 1779 and died in Maine in 1860; and his wife was born in 1781 and died also in Maine, in 1872. These parents had had five daughters and nine sons.

Of the sons, William T., the sixth, was educated in his native state, and studied law at Bangor. He came to Morris, Illinois, in 1849, and was admitted to the bar here in 1850, and at once began the practice of law, in which he continued the rest of his life. He was a strong lawyer and possessed an analytical mind. His knowledge of the law was profound, and his earnest

and conscientious handling of matters professional made him of strong influence at the bar. For a brief time (from 1853 to 1855) he also followed merchandising in Morris. He held several positions of honor and trust and did as much for the up-building of Morris as any man who ever lived in the place. He served one term as superintendent of public instruction, and was ever a strong friend of both school and church. In the early years of his residence in Morris he taught vocal music a great deal, and was a leader of singers. For years he sang in the Baptist church choir. In 1863-4-5 he was the president of the Sanitary and Christian Commission for his district. He became an ardent supporter of the Republican party at the very birth of that organization, and was a member of the first convention that organized the Republican party in Illinois, and ever afterward bore conspicuous part in politics. He was an intimate friend of President Lincoln from 1850 to the time of the latter's death, and was at the convention at Chicago that nominated Mr. Lincoln for the presidency, in 1860. In 1864 he was one of the electors on the Republican ticket, which cast the vote of Illinois for Abraham Lincoln for president. When Mr. Lincoln came to Morris he was always entertained by Mr. Hopkins. In 1861 Mr. Hopkins was elected the judge of the Grundy county court, and he served in this office one term. In 1864 he was elected a representative to the legislature from Grundy county for two years, and in 1865 and 1866 served as general agent for the internal-revenue department of the United States. Judge Hopkins went out in the three-months' service in the civil war. He raised a Grundy county company, known as the "Grundy Tigers," was made its captain, and it was a component part of the Eleventh Illinois Regiment.

While a member of the state legislature, Judge Hopkins was instrumental in securing the necessary legislation for constructing the bridge across the Illinois river at Morris. He built the old Hopkins House at Morris, the first good hotel erected in that town, and it was a good one, too. It was the best hotel in the northern portion of Illinois, at that time, outside of Chicago.

Judge Hopkins was also prominent in Masonic circles. He was a Royal Arch and Council degree Mason, and held many of the offices of the fraternity.

He was married in Maine, in 1846, to Clara H., a daughter of Simon Prescott. She was born in Maine, September 20, 1824, and survived him only a few years. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins had no children of their own, but they reared two nieces—Hannah Hopkins, who is now the wife of Allen F. Mallory, of Morris; and Nora J. Abbott, now deceased. Mr. Hopkins and wife were members of the Baptist church, and for many years numbered among the prominent citizens of Morris. Perhaps no other citizen who

lived in Morris was ever held in higher esteem by his fellow-citizens than was Judge William T. Hopkins.

LYMAN BEECHER RAY.

Lyman Beecher Ray, the lieutenant governor of Illinois from 1888 to 1892, is a native of the Green Mountain state. He was born in Hinesburg, Chittenden county, Vermont, August 17, 1831, and was reared and educated in his native state, receiving only the advantage of a public-school and academic education. His parents were born and passed all their lives in Vermont.

In 1852, about the time he reached his majority, Mr. Ray came west to Illinois and engaged in teaching school, an occupation he followed until 1855. That year he came to Morris, and, with a limited capital, opened a general store, which he subsequently merged into a dry-goods establishment, and here he conducted a successful business until 1888, when he retired, still maintaining his residence in Morris.

Mr. Ray was one of the organizers of the Republican party in Grundy county, and his political career may be said to date from that time, he having ever since taken a deep interest in public affairs. In 1873-4 he served in the lower house of the Illinois state legislature, from 1882 to 1886 was a member of the senate, and from 1888 to 1892 he was lieutenant governor of the state.

Mr. Ray was married, at Morris, in 1858, to Miss Julia N. Reading, daughter of James N. Reading, and to them was given an only daughter, Julia E.

JAMES N. READING.

James N. Reading, deceased, was a native of Hamden, New Jersey, the son and eldest child of Joseph Reading, and was prepared for college at the Princeton Academy, then entered Nassau Hall in 1827, and graduated in 1829, taking the fifth honor in a class of twenty-six; studied law in Trenton; was admitted to the bar in 1832, and became a counselor at law in 1836. In 1835 he married Sarah C. A. Southard. From 1832 to 1850 he practiced law in Flemington, fifteen of which years he was prosecuting attorney for Hunterdon county.

In 1850 he left New Jersey and removed to Jefferson county, Missouri, and for two years was the president of a leading mining company. In the fall of 1853 he became a resident of Morris, Grundy county. He was

elected a member of the state legislature of Illinois in the fall of 1856, and filled the position for two years, and then officiated as the clerk of the circuit court, filling a vacancy. During the civil war he was deputy United States marshal for Grundy county, and also United States commissioner. In 1865 he was elected the county judge, which position he held for twelve years, and then declined re-election, thereafter practicing law in Morris. He was an able lawyer and jurist, and a man of sterling qualities.

THOMAS PHILLIPS.

Thomas Phillips, a grain merchant of Morris, Illinois, has been a resident of this place for more than three decades and all these years has in various ways been prominently identified with the interests of the town.

Mr. Phillips is a Canadian by birth. He was born in Montreal, Canada, September 23, 1836, and spent his youthful days at his native place. At the age of sixteen years he started out in life for himself, coming over to the United States and at Chateaugay, New York, accepting a position as clerk in a mercantile establishment. Going west, he spent six years in California, and in 1868 returned to Illinois and settled in Morris, and here he has since that date been engaged in the grain business on Canal street.

JOSEPH H. PATTISON.

Joseph H. Pattison, a retired citizen of Morris, Illinois, dates his birth in Clermont county, Ohio, August 22, 1840, and is a son of William and Martha (Halsted) Pattison, both natives of Ohio. In 1842 the Pattison family came to Illinois and settled in Wauponsee township, Grundy county, where, on a farm, the parents spent the rest of their lives and died, the mother dying in 1850, at the age of thirty-seven years; the father, in 1882, at the age of seventy-seven.

Joseph H. was only two years old when he was brought to Grundy county, and here he has ever since lived, with the exception of one year, 1863, he spent in California. He was engaged in farming in Wauponsee township until 1891, when he moved to Morris, and here for seven years he was interested in the lumber business. Since disposing of his lumber business he has been retired.

Mr. Pattison has at different times been honored with official position and has rendered his township and county valued service. He has filled the offices of township collector and supervisor, serving in the latter about ten

years; and from 1877, for a period of nine years, he was the treasurer of Grundy county. Fraternally he is a Master Mason.

Mr. Pattison has been twice married. In 1867 he wedded Jennie Struble, whose life was happily blended with his until her death in 1885. His present wife, whose maiden name was Allie Hall, he married in 1887.

JAMES CUNNEA.

James Cunnea emigrated to the United States in 1846. In Ireland, his native land, he was a storekeeper. Upon coming to America he settled in Will county, Illinois, and engaged in dairy farming. A few years later he removed to Grundy county, where the rest of his life was spent, engaged in banking at Morris for a number of years. Mr. Cunnea died in 1884, at the age of seventy-four years, well known and highly respected by all. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Ann I. Gluckin, were the parents of the following children, viz.: John, James, Thomas, George, Ann, Kate, Maria and Isabelle. All are living except James and Isabelle. The latter, who was the mother director of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, South Bend, Indiana, died in 1893. George and his sister, Kate, reside in a beautiful home in Morris, where they are identified with the First National Bank. Of the named children, Maria is the wife of John McCambridge, a well-known citizen of Morris.

JOSEPH H. PETTIT.

Joseph H. Pettit, who is engaged in the abstract and loan business at Morris, Illinois, has been identified with this place since his boyhood and is ranked with its leading citizens.

Mr. Pettit was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey. For ten or twelve years he clerked in a general store in Morris, in 1870 and 1871 was the cashier in the Grundy County National Bank, and then for four years was engaged in the hardware business, with a partner. In 1878 he was appointed the clerk of the circuit court and recorder, in which office he served by appointment and election nine years and as deputy ten years. Since severing his connection with this office he has devoted his attention to the abstract and loan business.

Mr. Pettit has always been a stanch Republican. Fraternally he is a Mason, having advanced through the various degrees of the order up to and including the Knight Templar. Also he is a member of the G. A. R. At the

very beginning of the civil war, in April, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Third New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, and served until the expiration of his term of enlistment in August of that year, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Morris.

Mr. Pettit was married in Grundy county, in 1873, to Miss Myra Massey, and they have one child living—Murriel.

PHILIP R. SOUTHCOMB.

March 6, 1850, in Devonshire, England, was born P. R. Southcomb, of Morris, Illinois, a well-known citizen and popular liveryman of this place. Although a native of England, Mr. Southcomb does not remember his native land, for in 1852, at the age of two years, he was brought to this country by his parents, Anthony and Jane (Rock) Southcomb, both of English birth.

Arrived in this country, the Southcomb family settled in Kendall county, Illinois, and the father, being dependent upon his daily toil for the support of his family, worked at first at whatever he could find to do. The greater part of his life, however, has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, and he is now, 1900, a resident of Livingston county, Illinois, to which place he moved in 1869. His wife, the mother of our subject, died several years ago.

P. R. Southcomb received a common-school education in his youth and at an early age began hustling for himself, starting out in life with no capital except willing hands. Nearly all his life has been spent in the livery business and he has been engaged in this line of business in Morris longer than has any other man in the town now doing business here. His first livery experience was at Gardner, Illinois, where he joined his brother, John, who had opened an establishment there. Later John Southcomb came to Morris and engaged in the same business here, and in January, 1877, P. R. also came to Morris, the two again becoming partners. They conducted the business together until the death of John, which occurred in 1881, at which time P. R. became sole proprietor of the establishment, and has so continued. In his livery barn are found the best horses and carriages that can be secured in Morris. He is honorable and upright in all his business transactions, and withal genial and accommodating, and as a liveryman his career has been a successful one. In addition to owning his livery establishment, he has a pleasant cottage home.

Mr. Southcomb was married in 1878 to Miss Ida E. Spencer, daughter

of George F. Spencer, and they have two sons, Harry Philip and Leslie Spencer.

In politics Mr. Southcomb has always supported the principles of the Republican party. He has fraternal relations with the Masonic order, the I. O. O. F. and the Knights of the Globe.

ALEXANDER MILLER.

Alexander Miller, deceased, was born at Galloway, New York, April 8, 1817, and died in Morris, Illinois, March 2, 1897. The Miller family of which he was a representative had for many generations been residents of the Empire state.

When a young man Alexander Miller went to New York city and for a few years was a broker on Wall street. From New York he went to Buffalo, where, in company with E. K. Bruce and others, he built a ship and operated several lake vessels, and at one time he and his partners owned all the boats on the Erie canal. Financial failure followed, and he came west in 1859, joining his son, Harry L., who had located in Morris, Illinois, several years before and had bought and was running mills on the canal. And we may state in passing that these mills were subsequently sold to Nels Morris, who, with others, converted them into a distillery. Alexander Miller had traded for lands in the west, to which he subsequently added until he became the owner of one thousand five hundred acres of farming land. In the meantime he and his son, Harry L., bought the old plow factory of Goodrich & Company, which they operated for a period of twenty-five years, at the end of that time suspending business. During the rest of his life the senior Mr. Miller devoted his time and attention to looking after his landed estate. His was an active, useful life. He was a stanch Republican and an enterprising, public-spirited man, interested in all that pertained to the general welfare of his community, and he had the respect of all who knew him. In New York, at the age of twenty-four years, he married Cynthia Lovette, of Schenectady, New York, whose life was happily blended with his for a number of years, until her death in October, 1887. They were the parents of the following named children: Harry L., who has already been referred to in this sketch and who died in Chicago in 1897; Mary M., of Buffalo, New York; Harriet S., deceased; William M., of Chicago; Fannie L., deceased; Frank C., of Minooka, Illinois; and Chauncey A.

Chauncey A. Miller was born in Buffalo, New York, April 22, 1858, and was educated in the public schools of Morris and the Northwestern College at Naperville, Illinois, being a student in the last named institution for three

years. Then for two years he was with Field & Leiter, of Chicago, following which he spent eight years as a traveling representative for the Challenge Corn Planter Company, of Grand Haven, Michigan. At the end of this time he engaged in the agricultural-implement business with his brother, Harry L. Miller, at Morris, where Chauncey A. has always maintained his home. After the brothers had been in partnership a few years Harry L. sold his interest to Chauncey A. and the latter has since conducted the business alone, dealing in farm machinery, vehicles and bicycles, and having a large trade that extends over a wide territory surrounding Morris.

Chauncey A. Miller was married in 1881 to Miss Alice H. Whitney, daughter of Professor John C. Whitney, and they have two sons—Whitney C. and Raymond N.

Mr. Miller is a member of the board of education of Morris and has served three years as the town clerk. He is a Republican and a member of the K. of P. and M. W. of A.

SAMUEL M. HOENSHELL.

The efficient county treasurer of Grundy county is one of Illinois' native sons, and he commands the highest regard by reason of his sterling worth and fidelity to duty. His birth occurred in Nettle Creek township, Grundy county, June 17, 1867, his parents being Samuel M. and Christina (Waltz) Hoenshell. His father was born in Pennsylvania, and was of German lineage. About 1860 he came to Grundy county, where he married Miss Waltz, who was born in Germany, and came to this country during her childhood with her parents, who located in the Keystone state, whence they came to Grundy county about 1860. Mr. Hoenshell devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits throughout his entire life, his death occurring in 1874. He left three children: Nora, Lillie, and Samuel M., the last two being twins. After the death of her first husband, the mother married again, becoming the wife of Joseph Dawson, a retired farmer, residing in Morris.

Upon the homestead farm Samuel M. Hoenshell spent his boyhood days and early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His preliminary education was obtained in the public schools and later he was a student in Valparaiso, Indiana, and in Geneseo, Illinois. At the age of eighteen years, an accident caused the loss of his left arm, which was caught in a corn-sheller. This somewhat hampering him in farm work, he has devoted his energies largely to professional labors, and at the age of twenty years he began teaching. For seven

years he was accounted one of the successful educators in Grundy county, having the faculty of imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge he had acquired. In the fall of 1894 he was appointed deputy county treasurer, and so acceptably discharged his duties during his four-years term of service in that capacity that he was elected the county treasurer in 1898. Although the youngest nominee on the ticket, he received the largest majority, which was a merited compliment to his personal worth and ability. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed and he is deservedly popular in the locality where he has so long made his home. Socially he is connected with the Knights of the Globe.

February 21, 1900, Mr. Hoenshell married Miss Jessie Johnson, a daughter of Charles W. Johnson, the sheriff of Grundy county.

EDWIN H. ROBINSON.

Edwin H. Robinson, one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of Maine township, is descended from sterling Huguenot ancestry. His remote ancestors were witnesses of the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and on account of religious persecution fled to England in 1772. From the progenitor of the family in England William Robinson was descended, and he was married on the 6th of February, 1799, to Mary Taylor, of Oxfordshire, England. She was of old English stock, and the family were land-owners and farmers, having four hundred acres in Oxfordshire. Unto William and Mary (Taylor) Robinson were born the following children: William D., whose birth occurred December 1, 1799; John, born March 21, 1802; Samuel, January 16, 1805; Elizabeth, September 15, 1806; Anna, December 3, 1807; Edward, March 29, 1810; and Frances Johanna, November 15, 1813. The father of these children was a wood-carver to the crown of England. He was born and reared in London, obtained a good education in the French Huguenot College of London, and at the time of the invasion of Napoleon he was a member of the Home Guard. He held membership in the Church of England and died in London at the age of forty-four years. He was a man of upright Christian character and sterling worth.

John Robinson, his son, and the father of our subject, was born at St. Ann's Court, on Great Russia street, in London, March 21, 1802, received a liberal education and was graduated in the French Huguenot College in the metropolis. In his early youth he learned the wood-carver's business, and for many years followed that pursuit, meeting with good success. He was married at Box Hill, in county Surrey, England, August 13, 1833, to

Wm. S. Robinson

B 1802 Died 1893

Elizabeth H Robinson

E. H. Robinson

Lucinda Robinson

Elizabeth Hays, whose birth occurred near Bristol, in Gloucestershire, April 7, 1812. She was a daughter of John Hays, a carpenter and freeholder, who lived to be eighty-nine years of age, and died near his birthplace. His first wife died in early womanhood, and he was afterward married again. The children of the first union were: Elizabeth, Charlotte, Samuel, and several others whose names are not remembered. After the death of her mother Elizabeth Hays lived with her sister Charlotte, who had married Richard Teast, a well-known ship-builder of Bristol, England, who made his home in London. After their marriage John Robinson and his wife sailed from London, on the 28th of October, 1833, for New York, and after a voyage of seven weeks arrived in the American metropolis, on the 11th of December, 1833. They remained in that city until June, 1834, Mr. Robinson spending his time in looking over the country in search of a suitable location.

He finally took up his residence at Dublin, in Franklin county, Ohio, in June, 1834, and in the following August purchased a farm, comprising four hundred acres of land which was covered with a heavy growth of timber. Bears and wild turkeys had their haunts in the wooded districts, and the work of civilization seemed scarcely begun in that section of the state. Mr. Robinson, however, began the development of his farm, and with characteristic energy prosecuted his labors, continuing the work until he had a good home there. In March, 1853, he removed to Union county, Ohio, where he purchased two hundred acres of unimproved land, devoting his time and attention to its development and improvement until his death, which occurred December 12, 1893. Mr. Robinson was a man of broad scholarly attainments and superior scientific knowledge, being well known in the scientific world. He was a friend and associate of Louis Agassiz, Asa Gray and many other leading scientists connected with Harvard College. He classified and wrote the history of "The Habits of Mosses," culled by Dr. Kane in his Arctic expedition. Mr. Robinson also collected and classified the Fungi of Ohio, making accurate drawings of the same. He made a complete collection of the fishes and reptiles of Ohio, which he delivered to Professor Agassiz in their natural state. He was a skilled wood-carver and did much fine work from models, many specimens of which are on exhibition in the state house at Columbus. He entertained liberal religious views, and in politics he was an old-line Whig in early life, advocating firmly the abolition of slavery. He became one of the original supporters of the Republican party. His farm home was a station on the underground railroad and furnished shelter for many fugitive slaves escaping on their way to the north. He was one of nature's noblemen. His life was ever actuated by strong humanitarian principles, his sympathy was as broad as the universe and his intellectual

attainment made him the friend and companion of the most eminent scientific men of the nation.

The children of John Robinson were: Edwin Hays, who was born April 11, 1834; Alfred John, who was born July 24, 1836; Reubens William, who was born April 8, 1839, and died April 29, 1897; Arthur Saul, who was born November 9, 1841; Mary C. T., who was born February 11, 1843; Edward, born February 13, 1845; and Guido, born March 17, 1848. Mrs. Robinson was an excellent painter, not only of landscapes and other scenes but also of portraits.

Edwin H. Robinson, whose name introduces this review, was born in the city of Brooklyn, New York, April 11, 1834, and during his infancy was taken by his parents to Ohio. His childhood days were spent in the Buckeye state, and, though the school system was still in a primitive condition, he received excellent educational training under his father. His youth was spent on the farm, and he not only gained a comprehensive literary and scientific knowledge, but was also trained to habits of industry, gaining a practical understanding of the methods of planting and cultivating cereals. When twenty-four years of age he was married, in Delaware county, Ohio, on the 16th of September, 1858, to Lucinda Hill, who was born June 4, 1835, a daughter of John A. and Esther (Marsh) Hill. Her father was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, August 4, 1793, and was a son of Stephen and Marian (Martin) Hill. The former was a son of Stephen Hill, Sr., who served as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and was descended from a Pennsylvania Dutch family that was founded in America by German ancestors at an early day. Stephen Hill was the owner of a large farm in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and in his later life he went to Delaware county, Ohio, with his son Stephen and there died, at the age of ninety-six years. Stephen Hill, Jr., the grandfather of Mrs. Robinson, was born in Westmoreland county Pennsylvania, and married Marian Martin, also a representative of one of the old colonial families that were founded in Pennsylvania when the Indians outnumbered the white settlers in that state. In 1811 Stephen Hill and his family removed to a farm in Delaware county, Ohio, becoming pioneer settlers of that locality, where he secured eleven hundred acres of land. He gave a farm to each of his children and was instrumental in clearing a large tract of land, thus advancing the work of civilization. He and a number of his family are buried on the old homestead in a private cemetery. He was a Methodist in religious faith and a man whose upright life commended him to the confidence of all. His death occurred in 1840. His children were: Joseph V., George David, John H., Stephen, Benjamin, Josiah, Betsey, Richard and Sallie. Two of the sons, Joseph and George, served their country in the war of 1812.

Fred. Robinson

R. H. Robinson

John H. Hill, the father of Mrs. Robinson, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, August 4, 1793, and when fourteen years of age accompanied his father to Delaware county, Ohio, where he was reared upon a farm. He was married in Franklin county, that state, October 18, 1821, to Esther Marsh, who was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1799, a daughter of Benjamin and Martha (Bates) Marsh. Her father was a representative of an old New Hampshire family of English origin, and took up his residence in Ohio at an early day. He became a prosperous farmer, although by trade he was a carpenter. His death occurred in 1799. The Bates family, to which his wife belonged, was founded in the Empire state at an early day. After his marriage John Hill and his wife located on land in Concord township, Delaware county, Ohio, where he had two hundred acres. This he cleared from heavy timber, transforming it into richly cultivated fields. He built and operated a sawmill, engaging in the manufacture of lumber in connection with his agricultural pursuits. In the Universalist church he held membership, and politically he affiliated with the Whig party, becoming a Republican on the organization of that party. He lived to the venerable age of eighty-four years, his death occurring in Hardin county, Ohio, in 1877. He was twice married, his children all being born of the first union. They were: Joseph D., born August 26, 1822; Matthew B., May 22, 1824; Henry D., December 15, 1825; Clarinda, a twin sister of Henry; Almira, March 3, 1827; Claud, March 2, 1829; Mary J., February 5, 1830; Sarah, November 30, 1832; Lucinda, June 4, 1835; William, November 2, 1838; Hugh M., December 7, 1841; and Esther C., February 13, 1846. All of the twelve children are living excepting Almira, who died at the age of ten years, and Esther, who died December 20, 1854.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Robinson located in Union county, Ohio, on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which was covered with heavy timber. It required arduous labor to prepare this for the plow, but he cleared away the trees and made a good home, residing there for six years. In 1865 he came to Grundy county, and on the 21st of March of that year took up his abode on the farm which is now his home, a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. The place was unimproved save that an old house had been built thereon. Mr. Robinson began the work of development with characteristic energy, and has prosecuted his labors so untiringly that he has one of the best improved farms in the township at this time. He owns two hundred and forty-five acres of rich land, the greater part of which is under cultivation, yielding to him a golden tribute in return for his care and labor. He has erected a substantial two-story frame residence and has built good barns and outbuildings. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson

has been blessed with two children: Alfred D., born July 24, 1859, and William R., born September 23, 1863, both natives of Union county, Ohio.

In his political views Mr. Robinson is a stalwart Republican, having supported that party since John C. Fremont was its first candidate. He served as school trustee for nineteen years, and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend, whose labors in behalf of its advancement have been most effective and beneficial. For three years he served as assessor and for two years as supervisor, discharging his duties in a most creditable manner. He is known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen and has given his active co-operation to all movements calculated to advance the general welfare. He was instrumental in naming the township of Maine, and has ever done all in his power to promote its upbuilding and progress. His life has been characterized by uprightness in all business and social relations, and he well deserves mention among the representative men of the county.

CONRAD ELERDING.

The industrial interests of Grundy county are well represented by this gentleman, who is now engaged in the manufacture of rolled oats in Morris. Success has attended his business career, resulting not from a combination of fortunate circumstances or from aid of influential friends, but coming as the result of continued endeavor, resolute will and honorable dealing, and while his life has not been marked by striking events his history yet contains valuable lessons, for it is that of one who has ever been true to his duty to himself, his fellow men and his country.

Mr. Elerding is a native of LaSalle county, where his birth occurred December 15, 1844; and his father, Henry Elerding, was born in the principality of Westphalia, Germany, September 9, 1805, and like his father was a miller by occupation. During the stormy days succeeding the establishment of French rule in Westphalia by Napoleon I. and while Henry was still an infant, his father was called to active military service and so distinguished himself on the field of battle that he was rewarded with a medal of honor by King Gerome I.—a distinction that has been conferred upon but few. But war brought its hardships to the families of the soldiers, for the land was over-ridden by the troops. The sufferings and privations of those terrible days of the boyhood of Henry Elerding were such as to be long remembered. The family property, although not confiscated, was destroyed by fire and the lifetime work of his father was thus lost.

Under great disadvantages Henry Elerding secured an education while working in the mill. At length he determined to try his fortune in America,

E. H. Robinson.
John Robinson. Fred Robinson
John H. Robinson.
- Four generations -

and at the age of twenty-seven sailed to the New World. After a voyage of sixty-eight days he arrived in New York city, November 1, 1832, without a dollar. Working his passage to Troy, New York, he secured there a position as a wheelwright, but soon after, learning of better opportunities in the west, he started on foot for Detroit, Michigan. At length he reached his destination, where he learned for the first time of the hamlet which was to become the future metropolis of the Mississippi valley. Chicago at that time contained a population of only one hundred and fifty, and with the little town he became identified May 30, 1834. While there he formed the acquaintance of Judge Caton, who advised him to go to LaSalle county, and, acting upon that suggestion, Mr. Elerding there erected and operated the first sawmill on the Fox river, its location being one mile north of the present site of Sheridan. There he also built a gristmill, and at that place a mill is still operated by his nephew. Mr. Elerding remained in LaSalle county until 1858, when in the fall of that year he came to Morris, where he erected a gristmill, which he conducted till 1869, when he was succeeded by his son, Conrad. He was a very successful business man and his indefatigable energy and capable management brought to him a handsome competence.

In 1838 Henry Elerding was united in marriage to Mary Ann Hollenback, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, a daughter of Clark Hollenback, a pioneer settler of Kendall county, Illinois. She died in 1882 and was buried in Millington, this state. Of their union were born ten children: Melissa, William H. and Sarah, all deceased; Conrad, of this sketch; Louise; Annis, who has also passed away; George B.; Charles F.; Edward H.; and Wesley, deceased. Conrad Elerding was educated in the public schools, learned the miller's trade under the direction of his father and in 1869 succeeded to the ownership of the mill in Morris. He thoroughly mastered the business in all its details in early life and during the passing years has kept in touch with the progress and improvement that have been made in the business. He has a well equipped plant, supplied with excellent machinery, and since 1889 he has been engaged exclusively in the manufacture of rolled oats. His patronage has steadily increased until it has now assumed extensive proportions and yields to him a handsome income, the product of his mill reaching many markets, including England and continental Europe.

In 1876 Mr. Elerding was united in marriage to Mrs. Eliza J. Elerding, the widow of his brother, William H. She was a daughter of John P. and Rebecca (Stone) Ridings, natives of Virginia. Her father was a descendant of Peter Ridings, the first representative of the family in America, who sailed from England and took up his abode in the Old Dominion. In 1859

Mrs. Elerding's parents came to Grundy county, where she has since made her home. By her first marriage she has one child, George W., who married Elva A. Lloyd and has one child, a son, Frank Lloyd, aged three years. This child represents the fourth generation of the Elerdings in America.

For many years the subject of this review has been a resident of Morris, where he is highly esteemed for his sterling worth. Prosperity has attended his efforts in industrial lines, and so honorably has it been won that even the most envious cannot grudge him his success.

ORVILLE T. WILSON.

Orville T. Wilson, secretary of the Morris Grain Company, of Morris, Illinois, is one of the enterprising business men of the town, where he has resided for the past four years. Briefly, the facts in regard to his life are as follows:

Orville T. Wilson is a son of Jonathan and Elma C. (Hoyle) Wilson, highly respected citizens of Grundy county, Illinois; and was born on his father's farm in this county, June 15, 1868. He was engaged in farming from his early youth until 1895, when he left the farm and came to Morris. From February, 1895, until October, 1897, he was a member of the lumber firm of J. H. Pattison & Company. In the meantime, in 1895, he became associated with others in the organization of the Morris Grain Company, and in the fall of 1897, having sold his lumber interests, he assumed the active duties of secretary of the company he had helped to organize and which is now doing a prosperous business.

Mr. Wilson has a wife and three children. He was married in 1893 to Miss Alice M. Pattison, daughter of J. H. Pattison, and their children, in order of birth, are Grace, Jennie Elma and Lois.

Politically Mr. Wilson is a stanch Republican, active in the support of his party. Public-spirited and enterprising, he is regarded as one of the leading young business men of the town. Fraternally he is identified with the Knights of Pythias.

E. B. JAMES.

Among the pioneers of Grundy county none is more worthy of representation in this volume than the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article. Through the long years which have passed since his arrival in

the community he has witnessed wonderful changes, having seen the wild land transformed into rich farms, while hamlets have grown into thriving towns, supplied with the various business enterprises which contribute to the general prosperity of the public. The inventions and enterprises which are indicative of civilization have been introduced one by one, and through the efforts of the representative citizens the county has taken rank among the leading counties of this great commonwealth. At all times Mr. James has been deeply interested in the growth of the locality and has withheld his support from no measures which have been intended for the public good.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Hamilton county, November 19, 1824, and at the age of ten years went to Rush county, Indiana, where he was employed as a farm hand for eight years. At the expiration of that period he came to Illinois, locating in Kendall county, where he worked by the day and month for a time and then began farming on his own account on rented land, which he operated for about five years. He then came to Grundy county and settled on section 25, Norman township, where he rented a farm for two years. Later he took a claim which he afterward purchased, and as his financial resources increased he added to his landed possessions from time to time until he is now the owner of six hundred and eighteen acres of fine land. He came to this country a poor boy and by determined purpose and unflagging industry he has overcome the difficulties and hardships that fell to his lot and has wrested from the hand of fate a comfortable competence. For fifty-two years he has resided on the farm which is now his home, his first place of residence being a primitive log cabin, which in 1850 was destroyed by fire, together with all its contents. He replaced it with a rude frame building, but now he has a commodious and substantial residence, together with good barns and other buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. He was very unfortunate in an attempt to raise horses, but was very successful in his other stock-dealing ventures. Thus it will be seen that success has not always smiled upon him, yet he has persevered and his labors have ultimately brought to him a desirable and merited reward.

In 1844 Mr. James was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Pyatt, a daughter of John and Margaret (Elder) Pyatt, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. Their children are John Wesley, who died in the army during the civil war; Charity, who also has passed away; Emily E., who is the wife of W. H. Benson, a resident of Norman township, Grundy county; Huldena, deceased; Sarah F., the wife of John Whitten, a resident of Norman township; M. F., who married Myra Marks and is living in Kansas; and Mary A., the wife of C. R. Flanders, a resident of

Harvey, Illinois. The mother of these children died in 1863, and Mr. James afterward married Sarah P. Evans, a daughter of Francis Evans, of Illinois. They have but one child, Dr. Robert L., who married Jessie Butler, and is a practicing physician at Blue Island, Illinois.

In his political views Mr. James is a stalwart Republican, who warmly advocates the principles of his party, for he believes that its platform embodies the best views of government. He has held a number of local offices, including that of supervisor, in which he acceptably served four years. He is an earnest worker and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a man whom to know is to respect and honor. His success is indeed creditable and his life is an illustration of what may be accomplished through determined and continued labor.

OLE J. NELSON.

Among the well-known representatives of business interests in Morris is this gentleman, who is connected with the fire and life insurance business of this city. He is also well known as an official, for during a period of seventeen years he has represented his township on the county board of supervisors, of which he is now the chairman. In life's relations his conduct has been such as to gain him the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been associated. Energetic, prompt and reliable in business affairs, he has gained the well deserved success which is the result of tireless energy and keen discrimination.

Mr. Nelson is a native of Norway, his birth having occurred in the land of the "midnight sun" on the 22d of January, 1847. His parents were John and Anna (Oleson) Nelson, and with them he came to the United States in 1858, locating upon a farm near Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois. There the father carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1879, when he had attained the age of sixty-four years. In 1886 Mrs. Nelson departed this life, being then in the sixty-sixth year of her age.

Ole J. Nelson was the second in order of birth in their family of ten children. His boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of farm lads of that period. He assisted in the work of field and meadow and in the winter months he attended the public schools. He was only eleven years of age when the family arrived in Illinois. His educational privileges were somewhat limited, but through the avenue of books and papers and through the experience gained in a practical business career he has gathered a useful fund of information, and is indeed a well-informed man. He pursued a

course in the local business college in Morris, and was then well-equipped for the practical duties of life.

At the early age of sixteen years he offered his services to the government in defense of the Union, and joined the "boys in blue" of Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois Infantry. The date of his enlistment was April 14, 1864, and the term one hundred days. He served for more than five months in Missouri and Kansas, and with an honorable military record was mustered out. Although so young he displayed the valor and loyalty of many a time-tried veteran, and he now maintains pleasant relations with his army comrades through his membership in Darveaux Post, No. 329, G. A. R., of which he has served as the commander.

After his return from the war Mr. Nelson engaged in farming for a year, and then turned his attention to merchandising in Morris. For six years he occupied a clerical position with the grain company on Canal street, and in 1874 formed a partnership with his brother, Nels J. Nelson, in the grain business, which he continued until 1891. In that year their warehouse was destroyed by fire, and their losses were so great as to compel them to retire from the grain trade. Our subject then turned his attention to the fire and life insurance business, in which he has met with pleasing success. He is one of the able representatives of that enterprise in this section of the state and has written a large amount of business, which has gained him the confidence and commendation of the company.

In 1872 Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth A. Erickson, and to them have been born two daughters, Ettie and Josephine. Their pleasant home in Morris is the center of a cultured society circle, and their household is noted for its gracious hospitality. In politics Mr. Nelson is a stanch Republican, unswerving in his support of the principles of the party which stood by the Union in the civil war, which has ever upheld American institutions and industries, and which is now advocating the policy of the McKinley administration and the sovereignty of our flag upon foreign soil. He is prominent in political circles, and his worth and ability have occasioned his election to various offices of trust and responsibility. He served six years as city alderman, being elected to that position in 1877. In 1883 he was elected township supervisor and discharged his duties so ably that he has since been continued in the office—a period of seventeen consecutive years. This record is hardly equaled in the city, an indication of his fidelity to duty and his prompt and able service. He is now the president of the board of Grundy county supervisors, and by virtue of this position he was made the chairman of the board of review in 1899. He has a membership in the Masonic fraternity, and has attained the degree of Knight Templar. Throughout his life he has manifested the qualities which characterize the

people of the Norwegian nation, being energetic, reliable and persevering. These elements have brought to him success and won him the high regard of his fellow men.

JAMES E. WILLS.

Upon a farm near Coal City James E. Wills makes his home and is regarded as one of the substantial farmers and leading and influential citizens of Maine township. He was born in this township, July 1, 1857, his parents being Lawrence and Isabel (Honebon) Wills. It is thought that both the Wills and Honebon families have large fortunes in England. The grandmother of our subject was an heir to one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, but never received the money, being cheated out of it by a lawyer. It is also believed that a large fortune belonging to the Wills is in the English court of chancery. One of the ancestors of our subject was a naval officer to whom large amounts of prize money was due for some captures which he assisted in making. The grandfather of our subject was a seafaring man, and his son, Lawrence Wills, was born in Chardstock, Somersetshire, England, May 24, 1824. He obtained a common-school education and in early life began farming. He was married in his native county to Isabel Honebon, who was born in Somersetshire, February 7, 1815. They began their domestic life there and for a few years Mr. Wills followed farming, after which he emigrated to America, in 1848, taking passage on a sailing vessel which weighed anchor at Liverpool. Three months later he landed at New York, and by way of the lakes he proceeded to Chicago and thence to Kendall county, Illinois, where he rented land. In 1854 he came to Grundy county, locating in what is now Maine township. Here he purchased forty acres of the farm upon which our subject now resides. It was then but little improved, but he made a good home and extended the boundaries of his farm from time to time until it comprised four hundred acres of rich and arable land. His life was one of untiring industry and his years of honest labor brought to him a handsome competence. His political support was given the Republican party. In their native land Mr. and Mrs. Wills were members of the Church of England, but after coming to America united with the Methodist church. The father died July 3, 1893, at the age of seventy-two years, and the mother in 1888. They were parents of six children: Sylvia, Fanny, Barbara, William, Isaac and James E., all natives of Somersetshire, England, excepting the last two.

James E. Wills, of this review, is indebted to the common-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and was reared to farm

life. He was married in Maine township, on the 20th of February, 1881, to Miss Mary L. Hill, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, October 7, 1860, and is a daughter of Henry D. and Maria (Stalman) Hill, the former a son of Adam Hill and a native of Delaware county, Ohio, where he was born December 15, 1826. He, too, made farming his life work, and in his native county he wedded Maria S. Stalman, who was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, September 8, 1834. Her parents were Henry Louis and Maria Sophia (Miller) Stalman. Her father was born in Hamburg, Germany, and there learned the shoemaker's trade. After arriving at years of maturity he wedded Maria S. Miller, also a native of Germany, and in 1833 they crossed the Atlantic to America, taking up their abode in Adams county, Pennsylvania, where he followed the shoemaker's trade. Later they resided in Licking county, Ohio, and afterward removed to Delaware county, locating twenty miles north of Columbus on a small farm, where Mr. Stalman died, at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife at the age of seventy-seven. They were members of the United Brethren church and were people of the highest respectability.

After his marriage Mr. Hill located in Delaware county, Ohio, making his home upon a small farm until his removal to Grundy county, Illinois, in 1864. For a year he resided in Mazon township, and then purchased land in what is now Maine township—a tract of eighty acres— to which he afterward added forty acres. This place he improved, making a good home, and his enterprising efforts gained him a place among the substantial farmers and reliable citizens of his community. He died January 26, 1900, when about seventy-four years of age. His children were Clara, John, Mary, Joel B., Edward, Joseph, Louis, Delmar, who died at the age of twenty-two years, Thomas and Martha.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wills spent two years upon the farm which is now their home and then moved to Good Farm township. Mr. Wills rented one hundred and sixty acres of land there. They returned to the Wills homestead in 1890, he having inherited eighty acres of his father's estate. As the years passed and his capital was augmented Mr. Wills has increased his landed possessions until he now owns about three hundred and twenty acres in Maine township, together with a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Butler county, Kansas. While his career has been a prosperous one, his success has come as the result of many hours of hard labor, week in and week out. His steady application and careful management have been the factors in his prosperity, and his competence is therefore well merited.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Wills are: Wesley, Lewis, Clarence, Earl, Ray, James, Jesse, John and Inez Marie, the only daughter. In his

political views Mr. Wills is a Republican, and has served as a member of the school board and as highway commissioner. Both he and his wife enjoy the warm regard of many friends and are numbered among the leading citizens of their community.

MATTHEW JOHNSTON.

Matthew Johnston, whose long and active useful life is well worthy of emulation and who is accounted one of the leading citizens of Mazon, was born in Uniontown, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, June 27, 1821, his parents being Andrew and Mary (Thompson) Johnston. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and a son of William Johnston, whose birth occurred in Ireland. The grandfather was probably of Scotch-Irish lineage, and in his religious faith was a Presbyterian. Andrew Johnston was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and worked as a teamster in the days when freight was transported by means of horse power. He married Mary Thompson, also of Fayette county, and to them were born the following children: William, Matthew, Jane, Lorrimer, Sidney, Ann and Sarah. Leaving the county of his nativity, Andrew Johnston removed with his family to Richland county, Ohio, becoming one of the pioneer residents of that locality. There he followed farming and freighting until his death, his demise occurring when he was thirty-five years of age, while making one of his trips. His widow survived him until eighty-two years of age, making her home with her son Matthew, in Grundy county, Illinois.

Matthew Johnston was only about a year and a half old when his parents removed to Richland county, Ohio. He received a limited education in the public schools, but was not yet eight years of age at the time of his father's death. He then went to live with an uncle, William Thompson, with whom he remained until seventeen years of age, when he went to Uniontown, Pennsylvania, to learn the brick-mason's trade. He served a three-years apprenticeship under William Meredith, receiving at various times four, five and six dollars per month. When he had thoroughly mastered the business he returned to Guernsey county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade for six years, after which he spent six years in Jefferson county, Ohio, following the same pursuit.

On the 19th of April, 1842, in Guernsey county, Mr. Johnston was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Preston, who was born September 6, 1824, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, a daughter of William and Annie (Carson) Preston. Her paternal grandparents were William and Zubah (Sweet) Preston: the former was born in Vermont, near Lake Champlain, and was

descended from English ancestors who located in America in colonial days. By occupation he was a farmer, and at an early period in the pioneer epoch of Ohio he removed to Tuscarawas county. His children were Elijah, Sarah, Mary, John, Oliver, Elizabeth, James and Zubah. William Preston, Jr., was reared upon a farm and was married in Tuscarawas county to Annie Carson, a daughter of Andrew and Jane Carson, the former of French lineage and the latter of Holland-Dutch descent. Andrew Carson was a farmer and tanner, and removed to Sandusky, Ohio, locating upon a farm, where he died at an advanced age. His children were Zachariah, John, Samuel, Andrew, Margaret, Jane and Annie. For a number of years William Preston, Jr., resided in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, but afterward removed to Hancock county, that state. Their daughter, Mrs. Johnston, however, was born in the former county. By her marriage she became the mother of ten children: William, the oldest, born April 9, 1843, in Guernsey county, was a soldier in the civil war. He enlisted at Mazon in August, 1862, as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, under Captain Chandler, for three years or during the war, continuing at the front until honorably discharged on the 5th of June, 1865. He participated in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Vicksburg, the Atlanta campaign and the memorable march to the sea under Sherman. He is now living in York county, Nebraska. The other children of the family are Andrew C., who was born in Guernsey county, April 28, 1845; Mary A., born October 9, 1847, in Jefferson county, Ohio; Harriet M., born July 4, 1850, and died in 1851; Sarah M., born April 5, 1853, in Mazon township, Grundy county, Illinois; Finley P., born March 4, 1856; John F., born July 2, 1860; Charles S., born April 1, 1862; Clara B., born September 20, 1864, in Mazon township; and Nellie A., born January 28, 1868.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, of this review, located in Guernsey county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade and erected many substantial buildings, including the Catholic church in Washington, Ohio, and many good residences. In 1847 he removed to Jefferson county, Ohio, locating on a farm. In 1852 he came to Illinois, taking up his residence in Mazon township, Grundy county, a mile south of the village of Mazon. There he successfully followed farming for some time. He bought land and became the owner of a valuable property, which he continued to cultivate until 1884, when he removed to Mazon. In the village he purchased a comfortable residence, and has since practically lived a retired life, although he has been the promoter of various enterprises which have contributed to the welfare of the town, and was one of the builders of the opera house, of which he is still one of the proprietors. His wife has for many years been a member of the Methodist church and he contributes to its support.

In politics, Mr. Johnston is a stalwart Republican, served as supervisor for three terms, as assessor for nine years and as a member of the school board for four years, discharging the duties in a most prompt and able manner.

THOMAS LAYMON.

For more than a third of a century Thomas Lamon has resided upon his present farm in Maine township, Grundy county, locating here soon after his return from the war, for at the time when hostilities were in progress between the north and the south he went forth in defense of the Union and valiantly followed the old flag. He is descended from colonial ancestry that resided in Tennessee and were of German and Irish lineage. His paternal grandparents, Abraham and Elizabeth (Goodpaster) Laymon, were natives of Tennessee, whence they removed to Clermont county, Ohio, in early pioneer days. They had a family of ten children, namely: James M., Elias, David, Will, Cynthia, John, Rachel, Frank, Cornelius and Jesse.

James M. Laymon, the father of our subject, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, September 4, 1807, and received such educational privileges as could be obtained in the subscription schools of that day. His training at farm work, however, was not meager, for in youth he began work in the fields and became familiar with all the duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He was married in 1825 to Mary Sloan, a daughter of George and Mary (Storey) Sloan, natives of Pennsylvania and the parents of seven children, as follows: Nellie, Thomas, Mary, Margaret, John, William and Maria. Mr. and Mrs. Sloan were both members of the Methodist church, and the father carried on agricultural pursuits in Clermont county, Ohio.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Laymon located on a farm in that county, whence they removed to Indiana, settling near Crawfordsville, where they carried on agricultural pursuits for about four years and then went to Bartholomew county, that state. Subsequently they became residents of Miami county, Indiana, where the father purchased three hundred and twenty acres of heavily timbered land, upon which no home had then been erected. This was about 1835. Mr. Laymon cleared one hundred and sixty acres of his land, erected substantial buildings, planted a large orchard and made a good pioneer home. He was afterward cheated out of this property by a dishonorable banker who got him to exchange it for worthless Iowa land. In 1856 he removed to Lee county, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres, improving the farm until 1859, when he came to Grundy county and purchased a quarter section in Braceville township. To the improvement and development of that tract he devoted his energies until

his death, and was regarded as one of the most industrious and enterprising farmers of the neighborhood. Unto him and his wife were born fifteen children, nine of whom reached years of maturity, namely: George, Elizabeth, Abraham, Will, John, Thomas, David, Martha and Lida J. Both Mr. and Mrs. Laymon were members of the Methodist church, and in politics he was a Democrat in early life, but in 1860 supported Abraham Lincoln and afterward voted the Republican ticket. His life was straightforward and honorable, and he reached the good old age of eighty-six years, passing away upon the home farm, February 4, 1890. His wife died January 3, 1894, at the age of eighty-seven years.

Thomas Laymon, whose name introduces this review, was the fifth child of his father's family and was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, May 15, 1846. His educational privileges were limited. He attended a subscription school for three months, but otherwise is self-educated. He began work on the farm when very young and aided in the labors of the field until after the inauguration of the great civil war, when, in the eleventh ward of Chicago, on the 7th of October, 1864, he enlisted for three years. He was then only eighteen years of age. After serving for a year, however, the war ended and he was honorably discharged in Chicago, July 12, 1865, having in the meantime been promoted to the rank of corporal for meritorious conduct. He participated in the battle of Stone River and in the second battle at Franklin, which was one of the most hotly contested of the war. He was also in the engagement at Nashville, Tennessee. At one time he was quite ill, but did not go to the hospital, and throughout his service was always loyal to the old flag and the cause it represented, doing his duty promptly and cheerfully. He also had two brothers in the war. Abraham C. served for three years as a private of Company C, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, and participated in many battles, his death occurring soon after the war from the effects of hardships endured. John was a private of the One Hundredth Illinois Infantry and served for about ten months. When the country no longer needed his aid Mr. Laymon, of this review, returned to Braceville township and for a year operated a rented farm. He was married April 10, 1866, to Esther Morrison, who was born November 9, 1836, in Peoria, Illinois, and was a widow at the time of her marriage to Mr. Laymon. She is a lady of culture and refinement. Her father, Elias Colwell, was a farmer and pioneer of Peoria county, Illinois, whither he removed from Stark county, Ohio. His children were Louisa, Esther and Melissa. The second daughter was married to William Morrison, a farmer of Grundy county, Illinois, and they became the parents of two children, Eliza A. and Hannah, both of whom are now living. Mr. Laymon lost his first wife October 13, 1896, and in Chicago, on the 24th of January, 1899,

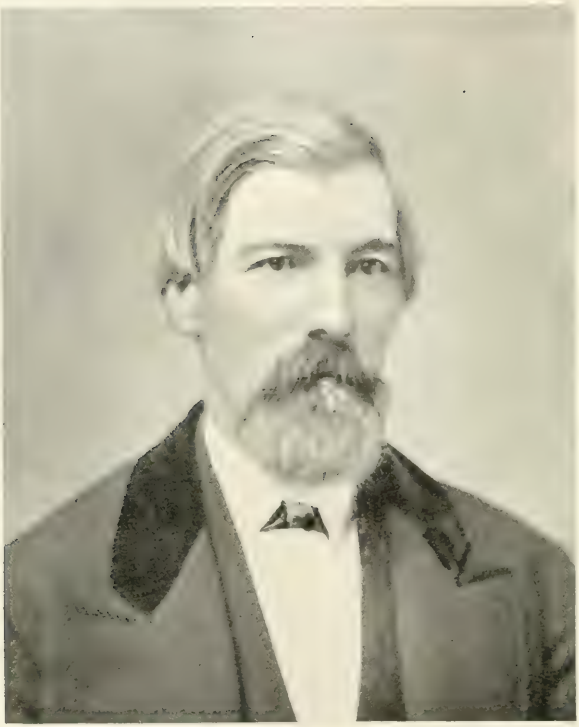
he wedded Allie J. Ellyson, who was born March 4, 1866, in Petersburg, Virginia, a daughter of James F. and Jane (Rolfe) Ellyson. Her father was born at Dinwiddie, Virginia, and was of English descent. He was a well-educated man and a coachmaker by occupation. He died at the age of thirty-five years, during the infancy of his daughter. He had been a soldier in the Confederate service during the civil war, and his death resulted from the hardships which he had endured. In his family were two daughters, Allie J. and Josephine, the latter the wife of J. O. Smith, of Raleigh, North Carolina. Mrs. Laymon was reared in Petersburg, Virginia, by her mother and was educated in the city schools. In later years she made her home with her sister, Mrs. Smith, of Raleigh, North Carolina, and afterward came to Illinois.

In 1866 Mr. Laymon purchased his present farm, which he has greatly improved, erecting a tasteful and commodious residence and substantial outbuildings. He has one daughter, Elva J., now the wife of D. R. Anderson, a lawyer of Morris, and they have one child, Ray. In his political views Mr. Laymon is a Republican, and he is an honored member of the Grand Army Post at Gardner, Illinois. Straightforward in business and industrious and enterprising, he has through his carefully managed affairs won a comfortable competence. He and his wife reside on the old homestead and the household is noted for its gracious hospitality.

ABRAHAM C. CARTER.

Among the honored pioneers who aided in the development and improvement of Grundy county in the days of its early settlement none is more worthy of representation in this volume than Abraham C. Carter. Though deceased, the influence of his honorable and upright life and the memory of his industrious career is still felt by those who knew him. His life was quiet and uneventful in a manner, yet at all times he was found faithful to his duty, and was one of the most respected citizens of Mazon township.

A native of the Buckeye state, his birth occurred in Belmont county, Ohio, October 17, 1818, his parents being Henry and Sarah (Cuppy) Carter. His father was a pioneer of Belmont county, removing to that place from Maryland. He was born about twenty miles from the city of Baltimore, and in that locality spent the days of his youth. He married Miss Cuppy, and four children were born to them, namely: Ann, Rachel, Henry and Abraham. Mr. Carter died in Ohio, and his widow afterward became the wife of Mr. Taylor, by whom she had two children,—David and Margaret.



A. C. Carter.

M. A. Carter.

Abraham C. Carter spent his boyhood days in the county of his nativity and received there a limited education, his school privileges, however, being somewhat meager. When very young he learned the glass-blower's trade, at Wheeling, Virginia. After arriving at years of maturity he was married, in Guernsey county, Ohio, November 27, 1844, to Margaret Ann Preston, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 14, 1826. Her parents were William and Ann (Carson) Preston, and the former was a son of William Preston, who was of English descent, his birth having occurred in Canada. He married Zuby Sweet, and their children were Elijah, Oliver, John, Sarah, William, James, Zuby and Mary. The family removed from Canada to the United States, for Mr. Preston would not swear allegiance to the British crown. They became pioneer settlers of Tuscarawas, Ohio, where he followed the cooper's trade, which he had learned in early life. William Preston, Jr., the father of Mrs. Carter, took up his abode in Tuscarawas, Ohio, after his marriage, and there two children were born to them, —Mary Jane and Margaret Ann. The mother died when twenty-seven years of age, and the father afterward married Barbara Richardson. During the civil war he loyally responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in an Ohio regiment. After the battle of Fort Donelson, in which he participated, he was taken ill and sent to the hospital in Mound City, Illinois, but died before reaching home. His patriotic spirit was most marked. He was more than sixty years of age when he entered the service, and would have been exempt from military duty had he not ardently desired to aid in the defense of the Union. His death occurred when he was about sixty-three years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Carter began their domestic life in Guernsey county, Ohio, upon a rented farm, and in 1851 came to Illinois, making the journey by wagon. They left their home on the 3d of June and on the 27th of the same month arrived in Mazon township, Grundy county. They first located at old Mazon, and later Mr. Carter purchased one hundred and five acres of partially improved land, upon which was a small frame house. By thrift and industry he added to his property until the home farm comprises three hundred and fifty-four acres. The well tilled fields and neat appearance of the place always indicate the careful supervision of the owner, who from time to time made substantial improvements upon his land, converting it into one of the best farms in this section of the state. In 1867 the little pioneer home was replaced by a more commodious and substantial residence, and the necessary barns and outbuildings were added. Throughout his life Mr. Carter was a man of industry and energy, and his practical and progressive methods brought to him the success which he well merited.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Carter was blessed with the following

children: Melvin, born in Guernsey county, Ohio, November 17, 1845; Sarah M., born in Guernsey county, March 27, 1849; Martha A., who was born October 21, 1851, in Illinois, and died on the 24th of December, 1854; Lora and Flora, twins, born in Illinois, March 29, 1854; Amanda J., born August 27, 1857; Douglas P., born June 29, 1860; William H., born February 6, 1863; Amos A., born March 11, 1865; and Frank B., born August 17, 1867.

Mr. Carter was a member of the Methodist church, which he joined when twenty-four years of age. His life was in harmony with his professions, and by his financial support and active efforts he materially advanced the cause of the church in his locality. In politics he was a stanch Democrat, and served as a supervisor of highways and commissioner. All who knew him respected him for his sterling worth, his honesty in business and his faithfulness to his family and friends. He died in Mazon township, March 2, 1876, and the community thereby lost one of its most respected citizens. Mrs. Carter has been a life-long member of the Methodist church, with which she became identified in Ohio, when fifteen years of age. She is one of the well-known pioneer ladies of Grundy county, and her many excellencies of character have won her high regard. She has also been an earnest member of the church, a devoted mother, and one who could be relied upon when sympathy and aid were needed by the poor and distressed. Her son, William H. Carter, is now managing the home farm. He is recognized as one of the reliable agriculturists of Mazon township, and is known as a young man of excellent character. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of good land, and his well-directed efforts in business are bringing him creditable success.

JOSEPH F. BURLEIGH.

There is no man better known in Grundy county than Joseph Franklin Burleigh, to whom is due the credit of advancing the material prosperity of this section of the state in no small degree. He has devoted many years of his well-spent life to producing and developing a distinct and superior breed of cattle, which are now rapidly being introduced into all parts of the United States, and also into other countries. He is the founder of one of the original herds of American polled Durham cattle and has done more to improve the splendid breed of cattle than any other one man in the country. His work in behalf of stock-raisers has made him a public benefactor, for his labors have resulted not to his individual good alone but have also been of great benefit to the farming community throughout the nation.

Mr. Burleigh descended from sterling English stock that was founded

in Massachusetts during colonial days, his Puritan ancestors being among the pioneers of the old Bay state. The name has been spelled in many ways, Giles Birdly being the founder of the family in America. Many changes have occurred in orthography, a very common spelling being Burley. Giles Birdly was a commoner in the English town of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1664. He became a planter and for eight years resided on Brooke street. His will was recorded in Essex county, Massachusetts, in the Registry of Probate, volume 1, dated July 1, 1668. He makes bequests to his wife, Elizabeth, and after her death the property is to be transferred to their eldest son, Andrew. He also mentions his sons James and John. His children are as follows, and constitute the second generation of the family in America: Andrew, who was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts, September 5, 1657, and died February 1, 1718; James, who was born February 10, 1659, and died in Exeter, New Hampshire, about 1721; Giles, who was born July 13, 1662; and John, who was born July 13, 1664, and died February 27, 1681.

James Burleigh is in the line of direct descent to our subject. His wife also bore the name of Elizabeth, and their children were of the third generation, the record being: William, who was born in Ipswich, Massachusetts, February 27, 1693; Joseph, born in Ipswich, April 6, 1695; Thomas, born in Ipswich in April, 1697; James, born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in April, 1699; Josiah, born in Exeter, in 1701; and Giles, born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1703. Through the youngest, Giles Burleigh, the line of descent is traced down. He married Elizabeth Joy, and their children were Moses, Anna, Joseph, Elizabeth, Sarah and Lidia. From Moses Burleigh and his wife Ann descends the fifth generation. Their children were: Moses, who was born in Newmarket, New Hampshire; John, who was born in Newmarket and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war; Molly; Rebecca; Nancy; Phebe, and Betsey. Of this family John became one of the valiant heroes in the war for independence and afterward located in Salisbury, New Hampshire, where he died. His children were Joseph, who went to sea when young and is believed to have been lost on one of his voyages; John, Hannah and Sally.

Of this family John Burleigh was born April 26, 1789, and was married December 28, 1808, to Sarah, a daughter of Moses and Sarah (Stevens) Fellows, of Salisbury, Merrimac county, New Hampshire. She was born December 4, 1793, and died at Livonia, New York, July 18, 1865. John Burleigh served a regular apprenticeship at the carpenter and joiner's trade, becoming familiar with the business in all its branches from the time the timber was cut in the forest until it was placed in the most elaborate staircases, or in other positions requiring superior skill. He followed his trade

until the infirmities of old age compelled him to retire to his farm near Livonia, where he died May 27, 1866. In 1816, the year memorable for its intense coldness, he removed from Salisbury, New Hampshire, to Livonia, with his wife and two small children, together with his brother-in-law, John Turrill, and Elizabeth, his wife, making the journey of five hundred miles in a covered wagon drawn by two horses. They were about four weeks on the way, and on reaching their destination Mr. Burleigh sold his horses and wagon, purchased some tools and then built a house for Jesse Blake, the building still standing in a good state of preservation. In that new country dwellings were not numerous and he was obliged to move his family into a log school-house, which proved a warm and comfortable home. They used the joiner's bench for a bedstead at night and the tool chest for a table until Mr. Burleigh could make those articles and other furniture. During his active business career he built some of the best houses in Livingston county, and was a well-known pioneer of sterling characteristics.

His wife was a lady of much prominence, possessing indomitable courage and fortitude, and to her husband she was a faithful helpmate. She could shear the wool from the sheep, card, spin and weave it into cloth and then fashion it into any desired garment. Many stories are told of her courage and love of justice, among them her protection to the crippled son of a neighbor. The little lad, then only about twelve years of age, was frequently cruelly beaten by his drunken father. Mrs. Burleigh several times interfered, and being large and strong would make the drunken father desist. The man, however, disliked her on account of her interference, and at one time came to her house to attack her, but she readily protected herself with a red-hot fire shovel. At another time, when the man had cruelly mistreated his crippled son, she and his sister Elizabeth went to his place, threw him down, and while one held him the other applied a stout hickory goad with both hands until he begged for mercy, promising to whip his son no more, a promise which he kept as long as he lived.

The children of John and Sarah (Fellows) Burleigh were of the seventh generation, as follows: John L., who was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire, November 17, 1811, and died in Avon, New York, August 31, 1893; Catherine, who was born in Salisbury, April 12, 1814, and died in Livonia, New York, August 30, 1869; Harriet, who was born in Livonia, May 17, 1818, and died in Kane, Pennsylvania, February 18, 1889; Joseph Franklin, who was born in Livonia, March 24, 1824; and Elizabeth Ann Maria, who was born in Livonia, February 12, 1829. The father of this family was a member of the Congregational church, as was his wife. In politics he was a Jeffersonian Democrat, and was a stanch Union man during the civil war. His sterling characteristics made him much respected by all who knew him.

On the maternal side Joseph Franklin Burleigh is a representative of the Fellows family of old colonial stock. Three brothers of the name came from England, one settling in Connecticut, one at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the third at what was Ipscon, Massachusetts, and from the last named, Sarah Fellows, the mother of our subject, was descended. His name was Ebenezer and his children were John, Abigail, Moses, Ebenezer, Joseph, Benjamin, Anna and Elizabeth. The son John was born at Kingston, New Hampshire, April 27, 1720, and was married March 6, 1746, to Elizabeth Blaisdell, of that place. She died at Kingston, in July, 1766, and he afterward married Mary (Tucker) Kenniston. In 1766 he removed to Salisbury, New Hampshire, where he engaged in carpentering, being one of the first representatives of that trade to settle in the town. He died in 1812, at the age of ninety-two years. His children by his first marriage were: David; Adonijah; Hezekiah; Ebenezer, who was born at Kingston, New Hampshire, December 16, 1753, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and died in Charleston, Massachusetts; Moses, who also was one of the Revolutionary heroes; Sarah; Betsey; John and Hannah. The children of the second marriage were Richard, Daniel and Isaiah.

Moses Fellows was the representative of the family in the third generation. He was born at Kingston, New Hampshire, August 9, 1755, and when the colonies attempted to throw off the yoke of British tyranny he aided in the struggle for independence. He was married May 20, 1782, to Sarah Stevens, of Plaistow, New Hampshire, who was born November 26, 1762, and died in Salisbury, July 18, 1863, at the very advanced age of one hundred years and eight months.

He enlisted in the Continental Army May 10, 1775, at Salisbury, and immediately went to Medford, Massachusetts, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill on the 17th of June, when a ball fired by the British cut off the end of his powder horn, thus spilling his last charge of powder. Having no ball he fired his ramrod and thus killed a British soldier. He was afterward stationed at Winter Hill, Massachusetts, until the 8th of September, when he went to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in Captain Dearborn's company to join an expedition which was to go to the Kennebec river, under General Benedict Arnold, and through the wilderness, and make an attack on Quebec. The army provisions became exhausted and great suffering ensued. After the battle of Quebec, in which the Americans were defeated, they went to Montreal, and Mr. Fellows enlisted for three and a half months, returning home on the expiration of that period. In April, 1777, he reenlisted in Captain Gray's company for three years and went to Ticonderoga, where he kept garrison until the 6th of July, when he went to Fort Ann and was in the battle of Block House. Later he went with his company to Fort

Edward, thence to Mount Independence, and was in the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777. Subsequently he was taken ill with fever and ague, and was sent to the hospital at Albany, New York. He left there about the middle of October for Stillwater and fought against Burgoyne in the battle near Saratoga. He then went to Fish Hill and White Marsh, and after joining General Washington's army marched to Valley Forge, where they spent the awful winter of 1777-8, enduring the most terrible suffering. In the spring he was with the army at the crossing of the Delaware river and proceeded on the march through the Jerseys and participated in the battle of Monmouth. There Mr. Fellows captured a British soldier with his horse and equipments, and for his meritorious conduct on this and other occasions he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. For some time he was ill in the hospital at Tarrytown, as the effect of the march to White Plains. After his recovery he was in General Sullivan's army and went on the raid against the Indians and Tories in the western part of New York. On August 29, 1779, he participated in the battle of Chemung, and then marched with the regiment from Conesus lake in Livingston county to the Genesee river, thence in an easterly direction, destroying forty Indian villages and fifty thousand bushels of corn. He was honorably discharged at West Point, April 20, 1780, and returned to his home in Salisbury, where he carried on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred January 30, 1846, when he was ninety years of age. His wife lived to be over one hundred years old.

The children of Moses and Sarah (Stevens) Fellows were as follows: Hezekiah, who died in infancy; Hezekiah, Moses, Reuben, Ebenezer, James S., Sarah, Samuel, Elizabeth, Polly, Pamelia, Adonijah and Pierce. Sarah, the eldest daughter of this Revolutionary hero, was the mother of our subject. It will thus be seen that Mr. Burleigh is descended from good old Revolutionary stock on both sides of the family, and that his ancestors were among the founders of the nation.

Joseph Franklin Burleigh received his education in the common schools and in the Lima Seminary, in Livingston county, New York. He afterward taught school for two years in his native state. During the greater part of his life he has given his attention to farming and stock-raising. He engaged in the book business for a time, and was with several of the leading publishing houses, including D. Appleton & Company and A. S. Barnes & Company, of New York. He represented the latter firm for a long period, introducing their school-books in various sections of the country. He traveled throughout the United States and was a very successful salesman, enjoying the confidence and unlimited regard of the house which he represented. He was married October 28, 1847, to Hannah J. Maynard, of

Williamson, New York. She was born February 5, 1826, and died in Livonia, New York, August 9, 1854, leaving a daughter, Ella J., who was born in Livonia, on the 26th of June of that year. On the 27th of August, 1856, Mr. Burleigh wedded Susan D. Underwood, of Adrian, Michigan. She was born in Williamson, Wayne county, New York, March 27, 1831, a daughter of Daniel and Chloe (Durfee) Underwood. The Underwoods were also old colonial stock of English descent and of Quaker faith. The Durfees also were Quakers, from the Mohawk Valley. Daniel Underwood was a tanner by trade, and for many years was a respected citizen of Williamson, New York. In 1857 he removed to Grundy county, Illinois, locating on land in Wauponsee township, where he improved a farm, becoming a well-known pioneer and substantial citizen. He was one of the original members of the Abolition party and one of the founders of the Republican party in this locality, supporting its first candidate, John C. Fremont. In religious faith he, too, was a Quaker. His children were Susan D., Stephen D., Carrie, Catherine and Merritt. In old age the parents went to Lake City, Minnesota, and lived with their youngest son until death. Mr. Underwood was well advanced in years at the time of his demise, and his wife reached the ripe old age of eighty years. They were people of high moral character and Christian worth.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Burleigh located in Livonia, New York, and he continued to represent A. S. Barnes & Company on the road until the spring of 1858, when he came to Grundy county, Illinois, establishing a home in Mazon, and taught school through the winter. In the fall of 1859 he settled on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Mazon township, and improved the farm from the wild prairie, all excepting fifty-six acres, which had previously been plowed. As a result of his industry and thrift he prospered and added to his land until he owned two hundred and forty-one acres—a valuable tract upon which he erected many substantial farm buildings. His land is well drained with over four miles of tiling, and the farm is now a very valuable property. Mr. Burleigh has always taken an active interest in fine stock, and the advantage of breeding hornless cattle was early impressed upon his mind, especially if possessed of the excellent qualities of Durham short-horn cattle. In the year 1860 he became the owner of a polled bull, sired by a full-blooded short-horn; dam unknown, but supposed to be of Durham blood, as the bull showed the Durham characteristics well developed. This bull was bred to grade Durham cows, and their polled progeny were bred to short-horn bulls for several generations; and in 1880 Mr. Burleigh had saved only five of his best polled cows. A strong prejudice existed against "mooly" cattle among cattle dealers when he commenced breeding this herd, and red polled and polled Aberdeen cattle were

scarcely known in this country, the English Red Polled Herd Book being started only in 1874.

In the many advantages of polled stock, however, experience has demonstrated the fact that horns must go. The editor of the Prairie Farmer, in the issue of June 22, 1889, wrote: "Mr. J. F. Burleigh is probably the first breeder who systematically attempted to breed the horns off the short-horns. This was twenty-five years ago. By careful selection he says he now has his herd so bred that no vestige of horns appears. In doing this he has bred his herd to two different strains, one possessing the milk-giving qualities, for which the short-horns were celebrated, and the other holding the distinctive characteristics and early maturity for which the short-horns have later become celebrated. Special care and attention has also been given in prolonging the milk-giving qualities, so that the herd are now noted for giving milk well up to the time of calving. The herd is gentle and orderly in its disposition; the color mostly red and red roan. The bulls used in the herd for the past eight years were blood red, and their sires red. The potency of the polled blood is now so strongly fixed and so potent to deliver that a young bull sold to Gilbert Gowey, of Gardner, Illinois, got all his calves hornless from horned cows, some twenty in number."

Mr. Burleigh was one of the eight founders of the American Breeders' Association, which was organized to keep this valuable stock pure and to import it and place it before the people. This society has published two editions of this herd book, in which this stock is registered. For many years Mr. Burleigh was associated with his son, A. E. Burleigh, but retired from the business in 1894, selling his interest to his son, C. I. Burleigh, the enterprise being now conducted by A. E. and C. I. Burleigh. He was appointed president of the American Polled Breeders' Association at the meeting held in Chicago in 1889, but resigned in favor of Dr. Crane, of Tippecanoe City, Ohio. Mr. Burleigh had a fine exhibition of polled Durham cattle at the World's Columbian Exposition and received several premiums under the firm name of J. F. & A. E. Burleigh.

The children of Mr. Burleigh by his second wife are: Arthur E., who was born in Mazon, July 24, 1860, and was married March 1, 1888, to Tamie L. Doud. He is a very successful farmer and cattle dealer. Alice Gertrude, born in Mazon, July 4, 1862, was married February 11, 1890, to Hurbert R. Tubbs, who is now head bookkeeper in a bank at Boonville, New York. Ida Josephine, born in Mazon, December 6, 1863, was married April 15, 1886, to Robert H. Dewey, who was born in New York, May 28, 1862, and was a successful farmer and breeder of polled Durham cattle. He was associated with J. F. & A. E. Burleigh in the exhibit at the World's Fair and received a number of premiums. He died in Mazon, May 21, 1899. He

was straightforward in all his business dealings and highly respected in all life's relations. Mr. Dewey was one of the founders of the Grundy County Farmers' Institute and its first secretary, which position he held until his death. He was a justice of the peace and school teacher. His widow, a member of the Congregational church, still resides on the homestead. She inherited the courageous spirit of her grandmother Burleigh, and on one occasion, when a tramp became insolent, although she was sick in bed, she directed her servant girl to shoot him if he made any further trouble. The tramp threw stones at the house and broke out windows, and the girl fired and shot him. He went away, but returned the same night and set a barn afire. Charles Irving, the youngest member of the family, was born in Mazon, April 22, 1870, and was married November 8, 1894, to Clara May Hill. He and his brother succeeded their father in the stock-breeding business.

Mr. Burleigh, of this review, has always been an active and enterprising business man and a public-spirited citizen, identified with the best interests of Grundy county. During the civil war he was the supervisor of Mazon township for three years and assisted in raising the quota of soldiers for the township, so that no draft was made. He was a justice of the peace for twenty years, an assessor for three years, and throughout a long period a member of the school board, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. He was also nominated in the convention for the state legislature, but in the election was defeated by one vote. In politics he was originally a Democrat, casting his first ballot for Martin Van Buren, but later he became one of the founders of the Republican party in Grundy county and voted for its first candidate, John C. Fremont, in New York state. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, in which he has held the office of church trustee. He is one of the most respected and sterling citizens of this community, and no history of Grundy county would be complete without the record of his life.

CHESTER G. DEWEY.

An investigation into the history of Grundy county will disclose the fact that the Dewey family has been prominent in connection with the advancement and progress of this section of the state, so that their history forms an essential part of the annals of the county. Chester G. Dewey was born in Leyden, New York, February 2, 1831, his parents being Harvey and Jerusha (Jencks) Dewey. In his youth he obtained a good common-school education and through the summer months worked on the farm. When

young he also learned the carpenter's trade and was employed as a journeyman for some time.

At the age of twenty-four years he was married in Boonville, Oneida county, New York, to Maria K. Hall, the wedding being celebrated November 16, 1855. The lady was born in Leyden, New York, and is a daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Jencks) Hall. When this country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain, her ancestors took up their abode in the New World. Dr. Isaac Hall, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Dewey, was a prominent physician of Connecticut, and his son Isaac was born in that state. The grandfather was twice married, and after the death of his first wife removed to Leyden, Lewis county, New York, where he was again married. The children of his first union were Isaac, Jonathan, Abijah, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Phoebe; and by his second wife one son, named Joseph. Jonathan Hall, the father of Mrs. Dewey, was born in Connecticut, about 1776, and became one of the founders of the town of Leyden. He was married, in Connecticut, to Miss Hawley, by whom he had two children—Jehiel and Daniel. The mother died and Mr. Hall was again married, in Leyden, New York, to Sarah Jencks, a native of New England, whose birth occurred about 1790. He was a farmer by occupation and cleared a tract of land in Lewis county, developing there a good farm of three hundred acres. He was one of the substantial and respected citizens of the community and for some time served as a member of the board of selectmen. His death occurred in February, 1841, when he had reached the age of sixty-five years. Both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church. In their family were the following children: Mary, Abigail, Jonathan, Sarah, Isaac, Julia, William, Phoebe, Eunice, Newton and Maria.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dewey took up their abode in Leyden, where he owned a good farm. He afterward sold that property, however, and removed to Mexico, Oswego county, where he owned a valuable dairy farm of one hundred and four acres, and where he remained until his emigration to the west. His home was blessed with the presence of the following children: Harvey N., born December 6, 1856; Estella S., born September 8, 1858; Robert H., born May 8, 1862, and died May 21, 1899; Helen E., born August 4, 1864; Fred H. and Frank H., twins, born February 10, 1869, but the latter died June 2, 1876; Charles H., born May 28, 1871, and died November 16, 1879; Jessie M., born July 31, 1877, and died in March, 1880. The second child, Estella, is now the wife of E. W. Walworth, a farmer in Mazon township, and their children are Lena, Roy, Mae, Jessie, Edward, Ralph and Stanton. Robert H., also a farmer, married Ida Burleigh, and their children are Chester, Carrie and Marion.

In 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Dewey removed to Mazon, Illinois, where they are now living a retired life. They are members of the Baptist church, and while in Mexico, New York, Mr. Dewey held office in the church for a number of years. He cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont and was a Republican for some time, afterward became a Prohibitionist, and in 1896 gave his support to William J. Bryan. His life has been one of industry, and his close application to business and his capable management have brought to him creditable success.

DELOS WRIGHT.

On the roll of early settlers of Grundy county appears the name of Delos Wright, whose ancestry may be traced back through several generations until we find that the family history began at the time of the early colonial settlement of New England by the Puritans. Israel Wright, the father of our subject, was born near Boston, Massachusetts, and was a son of one of the patriot farmers who abandoned the plow in order to aid in the struggle for independence. He obtained such educational privileges as were afforded at that day in the common schools and became a farmer. Like his father, he was a patriot and served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812, participating in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. He was married in Oneida county, New York, to Miss Betsey Gridley, a native of Connecticut, and a daughter of Job and Mary (Porter) Gridley. Her father was also one of the Revolutionary heroes, and both the Gridley and Porter families were established in Connecticut in early colonial days. Job Gridley was a member of the fourth generation of the family in America, his father being Samuel Gridley, a son of Thomas, whose father, Thomas Gridley, Sr., established a home in Hartford, Connecticut, and thus planted the family upon American soil. The ancestral history in England has been traced back to 1200 A. D.

Three brothers of the name came from England to America, probably from Essexshire, between the years 1630 and 1633. Samuel Gridley died soon after his arrival, at or near Boston, leaving no descendants. Richard Gridley remained at Boston, where he was admitted as a freeman on the 1st of April, 1634. In 1658 he was a member of the Boston Artillery Company, and afterward became its captain. He died in that city, about 1674. His children were Mary, Sarah, Hannah, Return, Believe, Tremble and Joseph. Thomas Gridley, the third brother, went to Hartford, Connecticut, with Rev. Thomas Hooker and his followers, where, in 1639, he was one of one hundred and twenty-seven landholders. He was there married, September 29, 1644, to Miss Mary Seymour, a daughter of Richard Seymour. He died

about 1655, at Hartford. His children were Samuel, Thomas and Mary. These sons of Thomas Gridley became two of the original eighty-four proprietors of Farmington, Connecticut. Nearly all of the people living in the United States by the name of Gridley have descended from the Hartford ancestor.

Job Gridley, the grandfather of Mr. Wright, had five children: Sybil, Betsey, Reuben, Thomas and Samuel. He removed to Oneida county, New York, becoming one of the pioneer settlers, and there in the midst of the forest near Clinton he developed a good farm, upon which he spent his remaining days, dying at an advanced age.

When a young man Israel Wright, the father of our subject, removed to Oneida county, New York, where he followed farming. He married Miss Betsey Gridley when she was nineteen years of age. He, too, developed a farm in the midst of the forest, but in 1847 left the east, removing to Lawrence county, Illinois, where he purchased land of the government. That tract was also in its primitive condition, but he succeeded in transforming it into richly cultivated fields. He was an old-line Whig in politics, a member of the Methodist church, and died when more than eighty years of age. His children were Sewell, Ursula, Prudence, Russell, Betsey, Ambrose, Orin, Armenas, Delos and Armena, who died in childhood.

Delos Wright was born in Oneida county, at Clinton, New York, January 4, 1821, obtained a common-school education, and, with his father, became a resident of Lawrence county, Illinois, in 1847. For twenty years he worked at the carpenter's trade. About 1848 he took up his abode in Kendall county, Illinois, and was there married, July 3, 1851, to Miss Mary Hick, born May 11, 1832, a native of Turin, Lewis county, New York, and a daughter of Richard and Agnes (Schank) Hick. Her father was a well-known man and a local Methodist minister. He was born in England and in early life came to America. In Turin he married Miss Agnes Schank, who was of sturdy Holland Dutch descent. About 1850 he removed to Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, where he engaged in preaching the gospel and farming. There he died when about the age of sixty years. His children were Ruth, Ann, Agnes, Laura, Mary, Richard, Richardson, John and Hester.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Wright they located near Lisbon, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres of land from the government, at a dollar and a quarter per acre. This was in Nettle Creek township. Of this tract of wild prairie he improved a farm, which he rented, in the meantime working at his trade of carpentering in Lisbon and Morris. Subsequently he sold his land and removed to Reading, Livingston county, Illinois, in 1853. There he again purchased government land, at a dollar and

a quarter an acre, and developed a good farm, upon which he lived for ten years, when he sold that property and removed to Fairbury, where he conducted a furniture store for six years. In 1877 he took up his abode in Verona, Illinois, where he again embarked in the furniture business until 1891. Through the four succeeding years he was a furniture dealer of Mazon and his business affairs were creditably and successfully conducted.

In 1895 Mr. Wright was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in Mazon on the 10th of July of that year. She was a member of the Methodist church and lived an earnest Christian life. Her children were: Elizabeth, born August 20, 1852; William A., born September 14, 1854; Ellery, born March 7, 1857; Josephine, born December 11, 1861; and Albert G., born April 15, 1868. Mr. Wright was again married April 29, 1896, in Mazon, his second union being with Mrs. Sarah Dewey, the widow of Joseph Dewey. She was born in Washington county, New York, January 15, 1835, a daughter of William and Nancy (Dugan) Whitlock. Her father was a native of the town of Day, Washington county, born about 1818, and was of Pennsylvania Dutch lineage. He was a farmer and stone-mason, and in Washington county, New York, he married Miss Nancy Dugan, a daughter of Arthur and Sallie Dugan. Mr. Whitlock lived in the town of Day and followed his trade for many years. There his first wife, who was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, died at the age of sixty-two years. Their children were Sarah, born January 15, 1835; William J., born June 5, 1837; Jane, born June 25, 1839; and Arthur, born July 4, 1841. For his second wife Mr. Whitlock chose Janette Gorley, who was born in Scotland and came to America when seventeen years of age. In early life she engaged in teaching. After his second marriage Mr. Whitlock purchased and located upon a farm, but later resided in Salem, New York, where his second wife died. He passed away when about seventy years of age, respected by all who knew him.

Mrs. Wright was reared in Washington county, New York, received a common education and was married January 29, 1852, in Washington county, New York, when about seventeen years of age, to Joseph Dewey, who was born September 30, 1825, in Greenwich, same county. His parents were Daniel and Lucretia (Pangborn) Dewey, and their children were Polly, Betsey, Rhoda, Eliza, Amos, Sallie, Moses, Phoebe, Fannie, John, Jane, and Joseph. The father died in Washington county, New York, when about seventy years of age. As a private citizen he took part in the battle of Lake Champlain. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist church, as were a number of their children. He belonged to one of the old colonial families and was a descendant of Thomas Dewey, the founder of the family in America. Joseph Dewey, his son and the first

husband of Mrs. Wright, located on a farm after his marriage and resided in the Empire state until 1860, when he sold his property and removed to Norman township, Grundy county, Illinois. After eighteen years he took up his abode in Wauponsee township and purchased a farm of eighty acres of improved land. There he died when sixty-seven years of age. He was a member of the Methodist church and was an industrious and highly respected citizen. His political support was given the Republican party, and his children were: Nancy R., born January 10, 1853; Mary, June 6, 1856; Maggie, born March 14, 1858; John, born April 17, 1860; Annie L., February 17, 1862; Arthur A., September 21, 1865; Jennie, September 16, 1869; Estella, August 21, 1871; and Lizzie, August 18, 1874. All are living, and all are married with the exception of Estella, who is a young lady at home. Mr. and Mrs. Wright are now living quietly at their pleasant home and have many friends in Grundy county, where they are numbered among the most highly respected citizens. Through an active business career our subject conducted his affairs carefully and systematically, and his sound judgment and close application brought to him a handsome competence, which now enables him to live retired.

JOHN WATERS.

The purpose of a biographical history is to set forth the accurate record of the lives of those men who have taken an appreciable part in the agricultural, commercial, literary or religious development of the community. Macaulay has said that "the history of a nation is best told in the lives of its people," and it is this fact that has led us to determine upon the publishing of the records of the leading citizens of Grundy county, showing in what way they have taken part in the substantial growth and development of this portion of the state. Mr. Waters, of this review, was one of the pioneer settlers of Maine township and since his arrival here has ever borne his part in the work of progress and improvement, so that he is to-day numbered among the valued residents of the county.

Mr. Waters' family is of English lineage. William Waters, the grandfather of our subject, was a stone-mason by trade and reared a number of children, which included Joseph and William, both of whom came to America; Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Sargeant; and Ann, who became the wife of Mr. Atkins. The daughters also crossed the Atlantic to the New World. The father of our subject was born in London, England, and received such educational advantages as the common schools of the time afforded. He learned the stone-mason's trade of his father, and was married in England to Miss Ann James, whose birth occurred in that land. They became the

parents of William, Mary Ann, Elijah, John, James and Robert Waters, all of whom were born in the mother country with the exception of James and Robert, whose birth occurred in the city of Joliet, Illinois. In March, 1825, the father came to the New World, sailing from Liverpool to New York, where he arrived after a voyage of six weeks. Later his wife came to the United States, and her last days were spent in the home of one of the children in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Waters went direct to Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked at the stone-mason's trade for about seven years, when he removed to Athens, Illinois, becoming a contractor on the Illinois and Michigan canal. He afterward built roads at Joliet, and while thus engaged his death occurred, about the year 1850. He was an industrious, enterprising man, respected by all, and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Presbyterian church. He passed away when about fifty-five years of age.

John Waters, whose name introduces this review, was born in London, England, May 1, 1822, and was nearly three years of age when he came with his parents to America. He obtained a common-school education, and in early life worked at the stone-mason's trade. In 1849 he came to Grundy county and purchased forty acres of land of Robert Gibson, who had purchased the same from the United States government. The tract was located in what was then Braceville township, but is now Maine township. As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey he chose Barbara Misner, and they were married in 1852. The lady was born July 19, 1833, in Rush county, Indiana, a daughter of Christopher and Mary (Barber) Misner. Her father was of German descent and was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, December 16, 1804. His father, Henry Mišner, was a pioneer of that locality and one of the heroes of the Revolution. (See sketch of John H. Misner.) He was buried at Millington, Illinois, where a monument has recently been erected to his memory by the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. His children were Henry Fletcher, Christopher, Lewis, John, Harrison, Elijah, Elisha, Betsy and Serena. Christopher Misner, the father of Mrs. Waters, wedded Mary Barber in Rush county, Indiana, October 4, 1830. She was born in Cumberland county, Kentucky, October 15, 1806, and belonged to one of the old colonial families. Mr. and Mrs. Misner located in Rush county, Indiana, and after the birth of two of their children they removed to Wabash county, Illinois. A few years later, however, they returned to Rush county, but in a short time took up their abode in LaSalle county, Illinois, in that portion which is now included within Mazon township, Grundy county. About 1850 he removed to the old homestead in what is now Maine township, there securing forty acres of land, which he developed into a good farm. His death oc-

curred May 7, 1857, when he had attained the age of fifty-three years. He was a member of the Protestant Methodist church and took an active part in its work and served as one of the class-leaders. His wife reached the venerable age of eighty-two years and died at the home of our subject. In their family were seven children: Sarah Ann, Barbara F., Simeon, Merritt, Zama, Murray and Zachariah.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Waters located upon the farm, which has since been his home. By their marriage they had five children: Mary F., born March 4, 1854; Malinda, February 25, 1855; Ella F., March 4, 1857; William C., December 28, 1859; and Merritt F., September 23, 1861. The mother died March 24, 1862, and on the 21st of September of that year Mr. Waters married Zama Misner, a sister of his first wife. Their children are Arnold E., born May 20, 1863; Cynthia, who was born August 12, 1866, and died December 3, 1879; Eva M., born May 6, 1868; Lora M., born May 27, 1871; and Martha B., born March 15, 1874.

Mr. Waters is a stalwart Jacksonian Democrat, unswerving in his support of the principles of the party. For ten or twelve years he served as highway commissioner and his long continuance in the office well indicates his fidelity to duty. He is a man of straightforward independence of character and an honored pioneer. For half a century he has resided in Grundy county, and has not only witnessed its growth and development, but has borne his part in the work of substantial improvement. His business efforts have been crowned with a fair degree of success, so that he is now the possessor of a comfortable competence.

RICHARD RAMSAY.

It is good to write of the deeds of good and true men, and it is good to read of them, however unskillfully they may be presented. "It is not all of life to live," and, having lived and died, Richard Ramsay's influence remains and his family do not mourn him in solitude, for with their grief is mingled the sympathy of the entire community. Humanity is the poorer by the passing away of a noble man, and Braceville, Grundy county, Illinois, and all of its surrounding country suffered an irreparable loss, January 16, 1898, when Richard Ramsay died.

Richard Ramsay was born in Durham, England, November 22, 1842. He attended school until his eleventh year, when by the death of his father he was thrown on his own resources. His father before him was a mine manager, and Richard naturally gravitated toward the mines, where he became not only a practical but a more than ordinarily thoughtful and ob-

R. Ramsay

Mary ann Ramsay

servant workman, and was noticeable for his skill and good judgment. He was the second born of seven children and had four brothers and two sisters, and his brothers all became mine owners or operators, or both. The eldest, William Taylor Ramsay, resides at Whatcheer, Iowa. He was the first of the family who came to America. George H. is a resident of Oskaloosa, Iowa. Joseph H. lives at Des Moines. John also resides at Oskaloosa and is both mine owner and superintendent. The sisters are Margaret, who became the wife of Richard Watters, and Mary Ann, who married Newrick Longstaff; and they are both deceased.

Mr. Ramsay came to America in 1863, with his widowed mother and other members of his family. His thorough familiarity with coal-mining led him to turn his attention to the coal fields of Illinois. He stopped for a short time at Morris, but soon went to Pekin, Illinois, where he was employed in the mines. In 1870 he took charge of a mine in Streator, but in 1873, during the big strike, was removed by the same company to Braidwood, to take charge of their mine there, his good judgment and wise methods of management having been already in evidence with his employers.

In 1881 Mr. Ramsay accepted the position of superintendent of the large mines of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company, at Braceville, Illinois, which position he held with honor to himself and profit to the company from that time until he died. These mines under his management advanced to first place in the state for hoisting capacity and daily output.

This condition was made possible by inventions of Mr. Ramsay's, which made some radical changes in hoisting and loading coal into cars. One of these was the self-dumping hoisting buckets, by the use of which all mining cars remain at the bottom of the shaft, instead of being hoisted to the surface to be unloaded. The Hungarian steam shovel is another, which will unload a ton of coal, in the extreme ends of a box car, as fast as it can be run down the chutes. Still another is the high dump for dirt, all of which, with many others, were the productions of his fertile brain. Mr. Ramsay was a safe and thoughtful superintendent, who had at heart not only the welfare of the company but also of the men,—such a man as neither employer nor employe could afford to part company with.

At the time of his death, Mr. Ramsay was the president of the Illinois State Board of Examiners for Mine Inspectors and Mine Managers, which position he was filling for the second term of appointment. He was requested to accept this position in 1891 by the state board organized to inquire into the character and pass on the qualifications of candidates for appointment as state inspectors of mines. His work in this capacity was ever governed by a strong sense of justice. He began as a coal-miner and had been

for twenty-seven years actively engaged in the management and development of coal properties, and he fully understood all questions affecting the mutual relations of owners, operators and laborers in that field of enterprise; and when he died the coal operators of Illinois lost a safe counselor and the miners of Illinois a true friend. He was the president, also, of the Illinois Mining Institute and of the Braceville Bank. He took an abiding interest in everything pertaining to the growth of Braceville and the welfare of its people, and was in many ways a reliable friend of the town.

Richard Ramsay was married August 15, 1867, to Miss Mary Ann Bailey, of Morris, Illinois. Mrs. Ramsay, who still resides at her home in Braceville, was born in Staffordshire, England, February 13, 1850, and came to America when but seven and a half years old with her parents, Zethan and Sarah (Evans) Bailey, the first mentioned of whom is dead. Mrs. Ramsay was one of fourteen children, six of whom, named as follows, are living: Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Sarah Fox, William H., Zethan, Richard L., and Mrs. Laura L. Lewis. Among those who have passed away were George, James and Mrs. Clara Stewart, who died at the age of eighteen years. Others died in early childhood. Richard Ramsay and his wife became the parents of ten children, six sons and four daughters, named as follows in the order of their nativity: Zethan B., William, Sarah Ann (the wife of Richard W. Varley), Jerome, Laura (the wife of James H. Cumings, of Aurora, Illinois), Clara M. (the wife of Wade Eversole, of Joliet, Illinois), Richard, John B., George H. and Elsie E.

Mr. Ramsay was not a member of any church, but he was a liberal contributor to the support of more than one. As a citizen he was public-spirited and benevolent, as a friend he was cheerful, warm-hearted and true; and as a husband and father he was loving and indulgent. In his political preferences he was a Republican.

Such in brief is the story of the busy and useful life of Richard Ramsay, whose name was known and respected everywhere in the coal fields of America. The universal esteem in which he was held was evidenced not more by the one thousand and five hundred to two thousand people who attended his funeral than by the sadness of his townsmen as they went silently about the streets of the town while the man who had done so much for its development lay dead. His burial service was in charge of the blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity, of which he had been a member, assisted by the commandery of Knights Templar of Joliet, and the Modern Woodmen of Braceville. The Miners' Union also attended in a body. The floral offerings were not only beautiful and abundant, but very suggestive, that of the Modern Woodmen having been a large shield, betokening the sheltering protection of their order; from the four remaining brothers a wheel with five spokes,

one of which was broken; from his children, a bleeding heart; and others brought many fully as suggestive. The service was not only beautiful but also simple and impressive.

DAVIS R. DOUD.

There are few personal reminiscences presented in this work more interesting than those which follow. They include the recollections as boy and man of one who has had the experience of a pioneer and those of the enterprising citizen in the later period of development, and in a way they comprise the whole history of civilization from early settlement to the present time.

Davis R. Doud was born June 29, 1826, in Braceville, Trumbull county, Ohio, a son of Alvah and Martha (Rogers) Doud. His father was born in Connecticut, February 22, 1790, a son of Jesse and Lydia (Shipman) Doud. Jesse Doud died in Milton, Trumbull county, Ohio. His wife, a native of Connecticut, died in Lordstown, same county, in 1839 or 1840. Martha Rogers, the wife of Alvah Doud and mother of Davis R. Doud, was a daughter of Davis Rogers (in honor of whom the immediate subject of this sketch was named), whose wife was a Miss Miner. Mrs. Doud was born in Connecticut, and her family claim descent from Rev. John Rogers, who was burned at the stake, at Smithfield, England, February 4, 1555, for his religion. Her grandfather on the maternal side was Jonathan Miner. Her great-grandfather in the paternal line was Jonathan Rogers, a descendant of one of three brothers who came early from England. She had six brothers and two sisters. Alvah Doud had six sisters and two brothers. Davis R. Doud has seen one of his mother's brothers and five of his father's sisters and one of his brothers.

Alvah Doud went early in life to New York state and was married July 28, 1811. He emigrated to Ohio some time between 1816 and 1820, where he lived until his death, which occurred at Braceville, Trumbull county, Ohio, February 27, 1839. His wife survived until June 3, 1869, and died in Morris, Grundy county, Illinois. Their son Davis R. Doud has given the following information about his brothers and sisters: Alvah was born April 22, 1813, in Preston, Chenango county, New York; Hannah, in Preston, Chenango county, New York, February 28, 1815; Jesse, in Oxford, same county, October 8, 1816; Lydia, in Braceville, Trumbull county, Ohio, April 10, 1820; Chloe, also in Braceville, June 19, 1822; Israel, in Trumbull county, Ohio, May 12, 1824; Fayette, in the same county, October 10, 1828; Martha, also in that county, October 19, 1830.

Davis R. Doud's first recollection of life is of rebelling against a switching he says he did not deserve, at the age of two years. His next is of a memorable ride, at five, on a sheep, which ended on his being thrown off. He used the sheep as a substitute for a fiery, untamed steed which he had been unable to secure. Somewhat later some men working for his father gave him cider brandy and laughed at his wild talk and his attempts to walk a crack! The brutality of this performance was fully appreciated by his mother, who broke the brandy bottles in the wood-yard and rebuked the men. All through life when a thought of his mother's action has come to him, Mr. Doud has blessed her memory. At six he says he told his first lie! Those who know him say he has told few since. He admired a lovely plume which nodded at the top of his brother's militia training cap, and tore it off and threw it out of the window, then went out and pretended to find it and laid claim to it. He has other interesting reminiscences of his childhood and his boyhood. When he was about six years old he went to his eldest sister's, at Warren, Ohio, and while there took many surreptitious rides on a horse she forbade him to use. One day some of his playmates scared the horse and it threw him off and created such a commotion that his sister was apprised of his disobedience. She whipped him and he fought, as she testified, "like a bear!" Later he was permitted to ride a beautiful spotted horse to and from the pasture, half a mile from the house, morning and night, and he often speaks of the pleasure this privilege gave him. He has a vivid recollection of the hanging at Warren, in 1833, of a man named Gardner, for the murder of Marie Buel, his stepdaughter. About 1856 Elder Mack, a prominent preacher in that district in the early days, told him that he preached Gardner's funeral sermon from the text: "Give an account now of thy stewardship, for thou mayest be no longer steward."

Young Doud passed much of his time then and later in fishing along the Mahoning river, which washed one side of his father's farm, and in hunting in the woods in the vicinity of his home. About 1836 he went with his father to Ravenna, Ohio, to witness the hanging of a man named David Maquiston for the murder of the assassin's brother's wife's sister. In later years he heard that Maquiston's father, just before his death, confessed to the commission of the crime. About 1837 Alvah Doud contracted to construct half a section of the Ohio and Pennsylvania canal, on a cross-cut from Ravenna, Ohio, to Beaver, Pennsylvania, and in company with one Henry Smith took another contract to construct five locks at Quinby Hill, in Warren township, on the same canal. He sold his interest in the lock contract in a short time, however. This canal ran through his farm and during its excavation at that point Davis R. Doud worked on it as occasion favored, though his father did not live to finish his contract.

June 19, 1845, with John Booth and George King, young Doud emigrated from Ohio to Illinois. They walked a part of the way to Cleveland and there took passage on a steamboat for Chicago, where they arrived June 28. Mr. Doud states that he could then have visited every business place in the town in two hours. That same day they engaged passage for Bristol, Kendall county, Illinois, where Mr. King left the other two to join his brother in DeKalb county. Young Doud went to Booth's relations near Georgetown, Kendall county, and was for a time employed in the harvest fields and at other farm work. The next September he returned via the lakes to his old home to see his mother and other relatives. In October following, in company with his brother Israel, he started again for Illinois, driving with a horse and buggy through to Georgetown and thence to Ottawa. From Ottawa they went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, driving most of the way along the lake shore, and thence inland as far as the site of Rochester, Wisconsin, at and near which were then only four log houses. They soon returned to Illinois and bought a wagon shop a few miles below Aurora, and were soon in active business. They soon sold out, however, and started westward on foot. They went as far as Rockford and thence down the Rock river to Grand Detour, Ogle county, where they remained through the winter. There young Doud became acquainted with John Deere, of agricultural machinery notoriety, whose son, then only about nine years old, was prominent in connection with the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. In the following spring (1846) young Doud went to a point on the Fox river near Long Grove, Kendall county, where he was employed by Jacob Pope until, about four months later, he was taken ill with fever and ague.

July 3 following, in company with John Booth, he came to Mazon, in Grundy county, to visit his sister and Booth's brother, who had, a few months before, moved there from Ohio. There was sickness in the neighborhood and some of the children of the two families had died and others were ill. July 4 they crossed Mazon creek and found on the site of Dwight and Gardner and between the two branches of Mazon creek only five log houses, and two of them were vacant. In the fall of 1846, in company with Edward and Oliver Booth and their wives, young Doud set out to visit their relatives at Big Grove, about twenty-five miles distant. Their conveyance was a four-ox team and a rude wagon, and it was necessary to cross the Illinois river below the present bridge on the road to Morris. The young man had crossed there before and knew that near the southern shore the stream was dangerously deep, and he insisted that as a measure of safety the women should cross in a canoe belonging to Jacob Claypool, which was secured near the ferry or fording by a chain. Against the protests of the

two Booths he loosened the canoe and conveyed the women to the opposite shore, and the oxen became frightened and one yoke of them turned around and the wagon-box floated off, and, altogether, the men encountered much difficulty and no little danger in crossing. It was not convenient for Davis to return the boat and he did not do so, and has ever since believed that, though he took the canoe without authority, the end justified the means, for he thinks his precaution that day saved the two women from an untimely death. In 1850, when Mr. Doud and Mr. Claypool were both members of the board of supervisors, Mr. Doud related to him the incident of the canoe and Mr. Claypool had no recollection of having missed the craft at that time.

Mr. Doud spent the fall and winter of 1846-47 with Mr. John Cook and West Mattock, near Long Grove, and with Owen Murray and his mother, north of old Mazon. In the spring he went back to his old Ohio home and there, his health having failed somewhat, devoted himself for a year or more to peddling. During that period he made the acquaintance of a worthy Christian young lady named Margaret Patterson, whom he married in the fall of 1847 and who died about two and a half months later. July 22, 1848, he married Tamar Easton and brought her to Illinois and settled on government land in what is now Braceville township, Grundy county. This was the family home until the spring of 1891, when Mr. Doud located at Gardner, where he now lives. For one year (1882-1883) Mr. and Mrs. Doud lived in Evanston, near Chicago, in order the better to educate some of their children at the Northwestern University. Mrs. Doud died March 1, 1885, deeply regretted by all who knew her. She bore her husband ten children, six of whom grew to maturity and five of whom are now living. Alexander Lee, the eldest, was born January 11, 1851; Florrilla A., was born October 8, 1855; Frank Rollin was born August 27, 1859; Amos Rogers was born February 9, 1862; Tamar Lucinda was born September 28, 1867; Harriet Luella was born May 29, 1864, and died October 1, 1883; and four others of their children died in infancy. September 6, 1888, Mr. Doud married Mrs. Mary Tinsman, a daughter of Isaac and Mary Showalter, born in Wayne county, Ohio, in 1851, who has borne him two daughters: Florence M., June 4, 1890, and Hattie J., August 5, 1891. It was in the spring of 1850 that Mr. Doud buried his first-born in the Wheeler cemetery, in which he erected the first gravestone, though a few persons had been buried there before.

Mr. Doud remembers the winter of 1848-9 as one in which there was much snow. It fell in November and lay on the ground until March, nearly two feet deep, with a heavy crust on top, which prevented breaking new tracks. On account of the hardness and the sharpness of the surface deer were unable to escape from hunters and an unusual number were killed.

Early in 1850, under the township organization act, Braceville township was formed and it was named by Mr. Doud, who was elected its first supervisor, in honor of Braceville, Trumbull county, Ohio, his birthplace and his place of residence until he was nineteen. Mr. Doud has a vivid recollection of the day (February 22) in the winter of 1854, when the first train ever reached the Mississippi river, over the Chicago & Rock Island Railway. On that day he braved a great danger and escaped almost miraculously from what seemed certain destruction. On a trip to Iowa with William Jenkins and another man, they crossed the Mississippi on the ice with a team of horses and a wagon. Returning by way of Davenport they recrossed the river between that point and Rock Island on the day in question, and in so doing came near going down to watery graves. The ice had softened by reason of recent warm weather, but thousands of people were going back and forth on foot without any apparent danger. Mr. Doud and Mr. Jenkins believed that they could cross safely by taking over one horse at a time. The horse they set out with broke through several times and was rescued by Messrs. Doud and Jenkins and others only with the greatest difficulty. In the final struggle to reach the shore, Mr. Doud got upon thin ice, which broke under his weight two steps after he advanced upon it. At the third step he struck solid ice, and with great exertion arose from his sinking position. Then, throwing the line by which he had been guiding the horse over the animal's back, he permitted it to go on without restraint. It reached the shore, but not until it again broke partially through the ice. Persons acquainted with the river stated that the channel was deeper and the current was stronger than anywhere else at that point. In 1896 Mr. Doud, who is something of an artist in his way, painted some representations of different scenes in this memorable adventure, which are objects of much interest to those who visit him.

In 1856 Mr. Doud was licensed to preach by the Protestant Methodist church. He was elected a lay delegate soon after to attend conference at Henry, Illinois. His brother, Fayette, also a preacher of the same denomination, was employed to preach on a circuit that extended from near the Illinois river, a few miles below Morris, to some distance west of Kankakee by way of Horse creek, and Mr. Doud preached on this circuit also, the two laboring together to save souls and extend the dominion of Christ. Rev. Fayette Doud died at his home at Ferris, Illinois, July 29, 1891. Jesse Doud, another of Mr. Doud's brothers, was a minister of the gospel for many years. He died at Sycamore, Illinois, June 16, 1875.

Mr. Doud has traveled a good deal in the United States and Canada, and has, at different times, traveled more than four thousand miles to see and comfort sick relations. With his wife he paid a visit to his old Ohio

home in 1851, and he went there again about 1864. The season of 1873 was dry and crops were poor and Mr. Doud had more stock on his farm than he could feed properly, and he took some of his horses and some belonging to another to Rockland, Maine, making the journey across the St. Clair river and through Canada, and returned through the New England and Middle States, well satisfied with his venture, after a stay of five weeks in the east. In 1880, with his sister, Chloe Booth, and her daughter, he visited his brother, Israel, in Iowa, and there met his sister, Martha Booth, from Kansas. While on this trip he went on a cattle-purchasing expedition with his brother's son, and had a never-to-be-forgotten experience as a lonely cattle herder on the plains sitting on his horse from dawn till evening two days. In 1881 he again went to Iowa, this time to bring back his wife, who had become ill at her brother's there while returning from Kansas. After his removal to Evanston, Illinois, in 1882, he went to Kansas to see his sister and her daughter, who were both sick, and while at Topeka had pleasant interviews with ex-Governors Glick and St. John and visited the various departments in the state-house. In the winter of 1886 he went to Denver, Colorado, to see his sick grandchildren. One had died before he left home, and he arrived in time to see and talk with two others, who passed away soon afterward. Many more details of the good and busy life of this patriotic and useful citizen might be given, but enough has been related to enable those who read between the lines to form a just estimate of his noble character and high purposes in life.

PETER E. ERICKSON.

When President Lincoln issued his call for troops to aid in defense of the Union, men started for the front from the workshop, the field, the office and the store. Every walk of life was represented, and the united efforts of these brave men resulted in placing the Union on a firmer basis than ever before. Mr. Erickson was one who, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, offered his services to his adopted country and followed the starry banner until it was victoriously planted in the capital of the southern Confederacy.

He is a native of the land of the Midnight Sun, his birth having occurred in Bergen, Norway, March 10, 1844. His parents were Mads and Sarah (Lee) Erickson. The father was born in Nordfjord, Norway, on the 1st of January, 1815, and his father was Erick Erickson. The former was connected with the mercantile interests in Bergen, being foreman in a wholesale store there. He was also the proprietor of a brewery. His wife, Sarah Lee, was a daughter of Peter Lee, who served as a soldier in the war between Sweden and Norway. While still residing in the old country Mads Erickson

and his wife became the parents of the following children: Peter E., Susan E., Andrew M., Sophia and Eli. All of the children came to America. Mr. Erickson continued to reside in Bergen for many years, but in 1890 crossed the Atlantic in order to live with his children, who had located here. He was a representative and enterprising business man and a good citizen, and he and his wife were consistent members of the Lutheran church. He died in Chicago, at an advanced age.

Peter Emil Erickson, the subject of this review, obtained a good education in the schools of Bergen and in early life worked in his father's brewery. In 1860, when about sixteen years of age, he crossed the briny deep to the New World, sailing from Bergen to Quebec, where he landed after a voyage of twenty-one days, which was considered very quick time. He had been a passenger on the good ship Norge, under the command of Captain Jetmonson, reaching Quebec in the latter part of May. He immediately proceeded by rail to Chicago and thence to Beloit, Wisconsin, where he lived with his uncle, I. C. Alested, a farmer. While there he attended school for three months to learn the English language. Subsequently he engaged in farming and the following spring went to Chicago. After sailing upon the Great Lakes for a short time he removed to Morris, Illinois, and in that locality was employed at farm labor.

In the meantime hostilities between the north and south had been continued until the country was precipitated into civil war, and on the 1st of March, 1862, Mr. Erickson responded to the call for aid, enlisting at Morris as a private of Company H, Fifty-third Illinois Infantry, under the command of Captain McClenehan. He was to serve for three years or during the war and at the close of the struggle he was honorably discharged; but he, however, re-enlisted as a veteran at Hebron, Mississippi, in the spring of 1864. After the surrender of Lee and hostilities were over, he received an honorable discharge and was mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky. The regiment, however, was disbanded at Chicago, in 1865. He participated in the battle of Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Vicksburg and was in the Atlanta campaign, being under fire for four months. He was also with General Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea. While at Jackson, Mississippi, where the regiment lost heavily, he was taken prisoner, but was soon released and took part in the march to Washington and the grand review in the capital city. He participated in many hard-fought battles and received slight wounds and cuts in his clothing, but was not seriously injured. Ever found at his post of duty, he loyally defended the old flag and throughout the days of peace he has been as true to his country as when he wore the blue.

When the war was ended Mr. Erickson returned to Wisconsin to see

his uncle and then came to Morris, Illinois, where he engaged in farm labor. In 1867 he rented land in Greenville township, near Gardner, and began farming on his own account. On the 30th of May, 1869, at Gardner, he married Celia M. Olsen, who was born in Bergen, Norway, July 15, 1849, a daughter of Neils and Susan (Olsen) Olsen. Her father was a merchant of Bergen and in 1858 came to the United States, first establishing his home in Wisconsin, whence he came to Illinois in the early '60s. He then located in Morris, where he followed various business pursuits. He was a member of the Lutheran church and lived to an advanced age. In his later life he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Greenville township, placed it under a high state of cultivation and extended the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of forty acres additional. His well directed labors, careful management and enterprise enabled him to work his way steadily upward and he became one of the well-to-do farmers of the community. During the civil war he served for three years with the Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry, and previous to that time responded to the call for three-months men. On one occasion he was injured by being thrown from a horse, and was sent to Chicago, where he served with the invalid corps engaged in guarding prisoners. No land has ever furnished more loyal citizens proportionally to this republic than Norway, and among this number may be classed Mr. Olsen, who was a faithful defender of the Union cause. His children were Ole, Ben, Celia and Josephine.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Erickson located on a farm in Greenfield township, Grundy county, but afterward removed to Montgomery county, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of wild land, which he transformed into a good farm, erecting substantial buildings and making other improvements. After four years, however, he sold that property and removed to Kearney county, Nebraska, where he took up his homestead claim, residing thereon for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Greenfield township, Grundy county, Illinois, where he rented land until 1890, when he purchased his present farm, comprising one hundred and twenty acres. But few improvements had been made at that time, and there were no buildings or trees, but his efforts have wrought great changes and he now has a very desirable country home. The residence is neat and pleasant, good barns and outbuildings furnish shelter for grain and stock and the latest improved machinery is used in the cultivation of the fields.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Erickson has been blessed with the following children: Neils E., Severn E., Susan J., John, Andrew, Emil, Eliza, Cornelius and Sarah. Two others, Sarah and Martin, died in early childhood. In his political views Mr. Erickson is a Republican and in religious

faith he is a Lutheran. He belongs to Sedgwick Post, G. A. R., of Gardner, and among his army comrades delights in recalling reminiscences of the old days around the camp fires upon the tented fields. He deserves great credit for the success he has gained in life, for he started out empty-handed and has worked his way steadily upward, overcoming many obstacles and difficulties. He is now numbered among the substantial farmers of Grundy county, and as such is well known to the residents of this section of the state.

W. D. HOWLAND.

In taking up the personal history of Mr. Howland we present to our readers the life record of a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of Grundy county. The Howlands are of sturdy New England stock, and the family was founded in America in early colonial days. It is thought that the original ancestor in this country was John Howland, who crossed the Atlantic in the Mayflower, but this is not definitely known. However, it is an authentic fact that the present generation descended from one of the old colonial families of Massachusetts. Asaph Howland, the grandfather of our subject, was born at Brandon, Vermont, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. In the Green Mountain state he was married, and the following children were born of the union: Philinda; Polly; Miranda, who died in early womanhood; Asahel, Warner, Stephen and Lorenzo. The grandfather of our subject was a shoemaker by trade and a very industrious and highly respected man. In 1825 he removed to Wayne county, New York, and there died when about seventy-five years of age.

Stephen Howland, the father of our subject, was born in Brandon, Vermont, August 8, 1806, and acquired a common-school education. When nineteen years of age he removed to Wayne county, New York, and was there employed as a farm hand for some time. When about thirty years of age he was married, in Cato, New York, on the 2d of October, 1836, to Catherine Bosworth, who was born March 3, 1817, in Westfield, Massachusetts. Her father, Caleb Bosworth, was born about 1792 and was a son of Caleb Bosworth, Sr., a shoemaker by trade, who through his well directed efforts became a wealthy man, owning considerable real estate. He was descended from old Puritan ancestry of Massachusetts, the family having been established on American soil during an early epoch in colonial development. Caleb Bosworth, Sr., died in Westfield, Massachusetts, in the year 1819. He was a gentleman of the old school and a man of sterling worth who won the high respect and confidence of all who knew him. His children were Henry, Caleb, Howard, Margaret and

Sophia. Caleb Bosworth, Jr., inherited land from his father in Westfield, Massachusetts. In early manhood he wedded Mittie Dewey, a native of Westfield and a daughter of Timothy and Asenath (Sexton) Dewey. Her father belonged to an old New England family of English lineage, was a wealthy farmer and a man of excellent character whose quiet and unostentatious life gained him the respect of all with whom he came in contact. He assisted all of his children in getting a good start in business life, and died at Westfield, Massachusetts, when about ninety years of age. He was the father of eleven children, namely: Clarissa, John, Charles, Abigail, Sally, Timothy, Larcomb, Mittie, Daniel, James and Rowland.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Howland they took up their abode in Cato, New York, where he conducted an iron foundry and also engaged in the manufacture of potash for some time. On selling his interests there he removed to Greene county, New York, and was engaged in merchandising in the village of Red Creek. In July, 1855, he visited Illinois and purchased a farm in Grundy county. The following year he came with his family to his new home, making the journey across Lake Ontario and by rail from Hamilton to Chicago. The land upon which he located was wild and unimproved, but was pleasantly situated on the banks of the Mazon creek, and comprised a tract of two hundred and forty acres, capable of high cultivation. With characteristic energy Mr. Howland began the work of transforming it into rich and productive fields, and successfully prosecuted his labors until February 15, 1864, when he was called to his final rest. He was a good business man, very energetic and industrious, but had not had time to clear the farm of all indebtedness when death claimed him. In politics he was a Democrat, and was a man ever true to his honest convictions. After her husband's death Mrs. Howland remained upon the farm for two years and then rented the property for some time, while she resided in Newark in order that her children might avail themselves of the educational privileges there afforded. Later she returned to the farm, and through her energy, patient industry, good management and thrift she cleared the property of all indebtedness and was prospered in her business affairs. She built a substantial and tasteful residence, good barns and other necessary outbuildings, drained the farm and has now one of the best properties in the township. She is a woman of strong character, of marked intelligence and very progressive, and certainly deserves great credit for what she has accomplished in life, having not only won financial success but also reared a family of children that have been a credit to her name. In addition to the homestead she now owns eighty acres of land, in Livingston county. She is now a well preserved old lady of eighty-three years, who enjoys the esteem and love of all with whom she has been brought in contact. Her chil-

dren are: Polly Jane, who was born May 18, 1838; Viola D., who was born February 8, 1840; Edward B., born January 20, 1842; Charles W., born October 7, 1844; S. Emmet, born October 13, 1845; Catherine I., born November 29, 1847; Frank F., born January 3, 1851; Lillian, born December 31, 1857; and Mittie D., born December 21, 1862. All were born in New York with the exception of the last two, who are natives of Illinois.

W. D. Howland, whose name introduces this review, acquired his education in the common schools near the old homestead and in the schools of Gardner. He has made farming his life work, and remaining upon the old homestead has cared for his mother's property, having conducted this farm since he was fifteen years of age. For the past seventeen years he has rented it. He has been to his aged mother a most dutiful and affectionate son, thus repaying her for the care and devotion which she bestowed upon him in his early years. Mr. Howland has been twice married. He first wedded Huldah Sutton, and to them has been born one son, Harry D. After the death of his first wife he wedded her sister, Susan M. Sutton, who was born December 1, 1858, and is a daughter of Henry B. and Catherine A. (Campbell) Sutton. They have two children—Henry Ernest and Catherine Emma.

After his marriage Mr. Howland brought his bride to the old home place, and throughout his business career has carefully managed the property, thereby deriving from it a good income. His methods of farming are progressive and enterprising, and his labors have resulted in bringing to him a creditable success. He is a man of high moral character whose trustworthiness in business and in all life's relations is well known to all with whom he has been brought in contact. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has held the office of school trustee and commissioner of highways, and has been a very capable official, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity.

Charles W., a son of W. D. and Catherine (Bosworth) Howland, served in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Regiment of Illinois Volunteers during the civil war and participated in the siege of Vicksburg. He worked on the great trench which was dug to the Mississippi, and while thus engaged was taken ill. After ten months spent in the south he was sent home, and he died October 28, 1863.

WILLIAM MARSHALL.

All honor that belongs to the pioneer belongs to the man whose name is above, and to his father, a man of enterprise who, in a certain field. set the wheels of business going at one of Grundy county's centers of enterprise. Prominent among the living, well known pioneers of Grundy county,

Illinois, is William Marshall, of Braceville, who dates his coming to the county back to July, 1855; and few now living in the county have been here so long as he. Mr. Marshall was born in Canada, December 25, 1839. His parents were Dr. John and Mary (Dunlap) Marshall. The former was born in England and the latter in the north of Ireland, but both came to Canada in early life. The parents of Dr. Marshall died in England. The parents of Mary (Dunlap) Marshall died in Canada.

When the subject of this notice was a boy, the family removed from Canada to the state of New York, and lived for some time at Hornellsville, Steuben county. The family came to Grundy county in 1854 and Dr. Marshall erected the first store building in the village of Gardner. Dr. Marshall was the first physician who located at that village. He was a believer in the Hydropathic system of treating diseases and while residing in Hornellsville, New York, previous to coming to Illinois, he erected and operated a water-cure establishment. He made a trip to England, before coming west, to visit the scene of his birth.

As the pioneer merchant at Gardner, Dr. Marshall met with success and he continued in business there until about 1860, when with his family he removed to Missouri, where he died in the autumn of the same year. The death of the husband and father resulted in the return of the family to Grundy county in the spring of 1861. The mother died a few years later. Their children are: William; Margaret, widow of Dr. Anthony de Normandie, who was in the Union service in the war of the rebellion and later practiced his profession in Braceville for many years, until his death in 1895; Mary, who died three years ago, unmarried; and Caroline Eggleston, of Hartford, Connecticut.

William Marshall, except for a brief interval, has resided in Grundy county since he was fifteen years old. In early life he followed agricultural pursuits and for twenty-two years was employed as a mercantile clerk. For several years past he has been engaged successfully in the coal trade at Braceville. Mrs. Marshall was formerly Miss Marion Cumming. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall had two children: Mamie, who died, aged two years; and Edward Marshall; and three grandchildren—Leonard, Hobart and Lillian.

Mr. Marshall is one of the few citizens now living in Grundy county who came here forty-five years ago. He remembers when everything was primitive and crude and has seen the country develop from a state of nature to its present condition of advanced prosperity. During all his residence in the county he has enjoyed the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. In his political affiliations he is a Republican. All his ideas as to public questions inclined him in his early manhood to ally himself with that party and, as he has estimated and understood its work in all the years of its history, he

has never seen any reason to renounce his allegiance to it. Since he began to have a part and an interest in the development of Braceville he has given his hearty and liberal support to every movement, religious, political or industrial, tending to the enhancement of the welfare of the people of the town.

JAMES LONG.

Ireland has contributed to Grundy county some of her most prominent pioneers and most honored and substantial citizens. Among the well known Irish residents of Au Sable township is James Long. Mr. Long is a native of county Tipperary, Ireland, where he was born December 16, 1838. His father, Thomas Long, was the first of the family to come to America. In 1845 the mother and her seven children followed the husband and father across the ocean to the land of the free.

The family settled in the town of Van Buren, Onondaga county, New York, and there the mother died. James Long came to Illinois after his mother's death and later the father came west and made his home with his son, James, until his death, which occurred in 1896. One son, William, was a soldier in the war of the rebellion and was killed in action.

Mr. Long has a good farm of sixty-four acres, and is esteemed as a citizen of more than common character and prominence. He married Miss Mary Cornelius, and their marriage has been blessed by the birth of two sons: William, a resident of Chicago, Illinois; and Charles, who lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mrs. Long is a daughter of Charles Cornelius, who was born in county Kings, Ireland, shortly after the death of his father. His mother died when he was young and he came to the United States with an uncle and lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, for some time and was there employed on public works until he came to Will county, Illinois, and secured employment in the construction of the canal. He saved his money and purchased land in Channahon township, Will county, on which he settled and which became his homestead and there he spent the remainder of his life. He married Kate Dun, born in Queens county, Ireland, who died in 1865, and survived her until August, 1898, when he died at the age of about seventy-eight years. They became the parents of five children, three of whom are living: James Cornelius, who lives on the old homestead; Eliza, wife of Daniel Fisher; and Mrs. Long, the oldest of the family. The two who died were Kate, who became the wife of Michael Hanlon; and John, who died when about eighteen years old. Mr. Cornelius was a well known and estimable citizen and all members of his family are connected with the Catholic church.

Mr. Long is a man of much public spirit who favors good roads, good crops and good living, and believes that real success can be obtained only under a liberal government of the people, for the people and by the people, and he strives patriotically to encourage such a government in every way at his command.

ALEXANDER CAMERON.

Alexander Cameron, deceased, came to Grundy county in pioneer days, and as the result of his untiring industry and capable management in business affairs he became one of the substantial farmers of Maine township. He was born in Scotland, near Glasgow, on the 12th of April, 1820, his parents being William and Jean Cameron. His father, an agriculturist in Scotland, in 1833 came to America, taking up his residence near Peoria, Illinois, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, there carrying on agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1864, when he had attained an advanced age. His wife died March 2, 1867. They were both consistent members of the Methodist church, and he was a straightforward, honorable man who enjoyed the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

Alexander Cameron, the subject of this review, was about thirteen years of age when he came to America with his father's family. He soon began work as a farm hand in Peoria county, and for eight years was in the employ of Henry Stillman, a fact which plainly indicates his fidelity to the interests of his employer. He was married June 3, 1846, in Peoria, to Julia A. Morrison, who was born March 28, 1825, in Atlas, Pike county, Illinois, in a new brick school-house which had never been used for educational purposes, and in which her parents had taken up their abode for the winter, it making them a warm and comfortable residence. She is a daughter of William H. and Barbara A. (Usong) Morrison. Her father was an Englishman from Yorkshire, and when a young man came to America, taking up his abode in Illinois. He was married in Athens, Pike county, to Barbara Usong, whose birth occurred in Cincinnati, Ohio, and who was a daughter of Daniel and Mary Catherine (Criss) Usong. Her father, Daniel Usong, was born in Germany, and when a young man came with his father to America. He was one of a family of twelve children and a location was made in Maryland. After their marriage Daniel Usong and his wife removed to Cincinnati at an early period in the development of that state, and there Mr. Usong owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is now within the corporation limits of the municipality. He was a millwright by trade, and followed that pursuit in Ohio until his removal to Pike county, Illinois, in company with

Julia A. Cannon.
Aged 75 years.

four Ross brothers, who brought their respective families to this state. Daniel Usong took up his abode on a tract of wild land, which he cultivated for some time. Subsequently he removed to Peoria county, Illinois, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, part of which was prairie and part timber land. There he made a good home and continued his farm work until well advanced in years. He died on the old family homestead in that county and the community mourned the loss of one of its valued representatives. In religious belief he was connected with the Methodist church. His children were Jacob, Daniel, John, Ann, Antis and Mary. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Morrison married Ira Ackly, a farmer of Peoria county, Illinois, living on the Kickapoo prairie. They afterward removed to Marseilles, Illinois. Mrs. Ackly finally died at the residence of Mr. Cameron, our subject. By that marriage there was one daughter, Lydia, who became the wife of Lewis Olmsted, who was a farmer of LaSalle county. Their children were: Ralph; Sever, who died at the age of seven years; Volney; and George. Mrs. Olmsted died in February, 1885, in Walnut Grove, Missouri. Her second son was married December 25, 1890, in Knox county, Indiana, and is a farmer of Grundy county. His children are: Ira; Perry and Webster, twins; Edna J.; Nora; and Christina, who died in infancy, October 22, 1899. William H. Morrison, a brother of Mrs. Cameron, married Esther Colville, of Peoria county, and was a farmer by occupation. He took up his abode in Braceville township, Grundy county, but died in early manhood, on the 12th of June, 1858. Their children were Eliza Ann and Henrietta, who married John Maxwell, by whom she has one child, Maud.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Morrison located in Pittsfield, Pike county, Illinois, and the former carried on agricultural pursuits, placing his land under a high state of cultivation. While on an expedition to secure more land he died at Spoon Grove, Illinois. His wife lived to an advanced age and spent her last days in the home of Mrs. Cameron, being called to her final rest while in Grundy county, at the age of seventy years. She was a member of the Christian church and a lady of many virtues. Their children were William, Henry and Julia.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron began their domestic life in LaSalle county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, of which only ten acres had been improved. He at once continued the work of clearing the remainder, turning the first furrow on many an acre. He made a good home, which continued to be his place of residence for two years, and in 1856 he came to Grundy county and purchased the one hundred and sixty acres of land upon which his widow now resides. As his financial resources increased he added to this until he owned two hundred and forty acres. This he greatly im-

proved, placing the fields under a high state of cultivation and adding to his place all of the accessories and conveniences of a model farm. He possessed the sterling qualities of his Scotch ancestry, being resolute, determined and persevering, and these qualities insured him creditable success. His business affairs were conducted in a most honorable manner, and he won the high regard and confidence of all with whom he was brought in contact. In politics Mr. Cameron was an old-line Whig until the dissolution of the party, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party, casting his vote for Fremont in 1856. He was widely known for his thrift and industry and his sterling honesty, and was regarded as a loyal friend and neighbor. When he passed away he left not only to his widow a comfortable competence but also the priceless heritage of a good name, for over the record of his life there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil.

Mrs. Cameron still survives her husband and is living on the old homestead which he improved; but she has recently sold her farm to Christopher Mulhall, who is a practical farmer and an industrious and upright man. His sister, Miss Elizabeth Mulhall, is his housekeeper, and Mrs. Cameron has a comfortable home with them. She is familiar with much of the pioneer history of this section of Illinois, having gone to Pike county with her parents at a very early age. She was eight years of age at the time of the Black Hawk war, and can well remember hearing the news of the capture of the famous Indian chieftain. She can also recall many interesting stories of pioneer life and of the experiences of those early times when the cabin homes of the settlers were long distances apart and when the greater portion of the land was still in its primitive condition. She has an excellent memory, and thus her conversation is enriched by many reminiscences of her girlhood. Her life has been indeed one of activity and industry, and to her husband she always proved an excellent helpmate. She was reared by her mother to the work of the home, and was taught to spin flax and wool and weave the thread into garments. After her marriage she not only performed the work of the house but also assisted in much of the outdoor work, including the milking of the cows. She was renowned for her dairy products, which always commanded an excellent price on the market. Now well advanced in years, she is living upon the old homestead and receives the respect and friendship of all who know her.

WILLIAM W. HILL.

For almost forty years William W. Hill has resided in Grundy county and is therefore numbered among its early settlers. His labors have also won him a place among the substantial farmers of the neighborhood, and

as a leading citizen he is entitled to representation in the history of this section of the state. He was born in Delaware county, Ohio, November 21, 1838, and is a son of John A. and Esther (Marsh) Hill. He represents the old colonial Hill family of Vermont, from which state representatives of the name removed in an early day to Pennsylvania. The family is of English lineage. Stephen Hill, the grandfather of our subject, was born in the Green Mountain state, and it is believed that he served his country as a soldier in the Revolution. On leaving Vermont he went to Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was one of its pioneer settlers. His wife, Betsy Hill, was also a native of New England, and in that section of the country they were married. They located upon a tract of land in Westmoreland county, establishing a home in the midst of the forest. There the grandfather owned between ten and eleven hundred acres and improved an excellent farm, having an orchard of forty acres, from the product of which he annually made peach brandy. His children, all born in Pennsylvania, were Joseph, George, David, John A., Stephen, Benjamin, Joshua, Sarah, Richard and Betsy. Stephen Hill resided in Westmoreland county for about thirty years and then removed to Delaware county, Ohio, at the time when there were only two settlements within its borders. The entire country was an unbroken wilderness covered with heavy timber, and the forests were the haunts of deer, foxes, wolves, wild-cats and much wild game. The turkeys and deer destroyed the corn crops so that they had to be watched. The entire family went armed, for the rifle was a necessary implement. All of the sons were expert hunters, and Stephen Hill was noted for his accuracy with the gun. In this way they secured much of the meat for the table, and their other food was largely grown upon the farm. While in Pennsylvania Mr. Hill had been the owner of a number of slaves which he freed before going to Ohio, but two of his negroes, however, accompanied him and lived with him in the Buckeye state. In religious belief Stephen Hill was a Universalist, and a man of unquestioned honesty and integrity in all the affairs of life. He gave to each of his children farms, and thus enabled them to secure a good start in life. He died in Delaware county, Ohio, at the age of eighty-four years, and his wife passed away in Ohio at about the same age.

John A. Hill, the father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and received good educational privileges for that day. He became a school-teacher and singing master, and all of the family possessed musical talent. He was married in Delaware county, Ohio, to Esther Marsh, who was born in Genesee county, New York, a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Marsh. Her father was probably a native of Cayuga county, of the Empire state, and his father was one of the pioneers of that

locality, whither he removed from Maryland. He was a native of England and was of English lineage. On leaving the east Benjamin Marsh took up his abode in Delaware county, Ohio, casting in his lot with its pioneer settlers. He became one of the extensive farmers of that section and gave to each of his sons one hundred and twenty acres of land and to his daughters eighty acres each. A well known pioneer, he took an active part in reclaiming Delaware county for the purpose of civilization, and was one of the honored pioneers who laid the foundation for its present prosperity. In religious belief he was a Presbyterian and a man of high moral character. He lived to the venerable age of eighty-five years, and his wife was eighty-four years at the time when she was called to the home beyond, both dying on the farmstead in Delaware county. Their children were Josiah, Joel, Benjamin, John, William, Esther, Sarah, Lucinda and Clarinda.

John A. Hill, the father of our subject, located upon a part of the old homestead after his marriage, his share of the estate being one hundred and sixty acres. Clearing away the heavy timber he improved an excellent property and built upon his place a sawmill, which he successfully operated for thirty years. He was one of the prominent residents of the neighborhood, and through his capable management of business affairs acquired a comfortable competence. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, frequently called him to public office, and he was one of the honored citizens of the community. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian. His first wife died in 1854. Their children were Joseph D., Henry D., William W., Hugh M., Martha, Clarinda, Mary J., Sarah, Lucinda A., Almira, who died at the age of four years, and Catherine. All were born in Delaware county. Mr. Hill was again married, but there were no children by the second wife. In the pioneer days when wild game of many kinds abounded in the forests of Delaware county, he became an expert shot. It is said that he killed as many as five hundred deer. His accuracy of aim enabled him to bring down almost everything at which he fired, and he won such an enviable reputation as a huntsman that Indians in the neighborhood greatly desired to gain possession of his gun. One big specimen of the red race, whenever he saw Mr. Hill in the woods, would sound his turkey call, and when Mr. Hill approached would say "Swap, swap." After many years' residence in Delaware county Mr. Hill sold his property there and purchased land in Hardin county, Ohio—an improved farm upon which he spent his remaining days. He died when about eighty-three years of age, and his remains were interred on the old family homestead in Delaware county.

William W. Hill, whose name begins this record, was born in Delaware county and reared amid the wild scenes of pioneer life. He obtained a

good common-school education, and on attaining his majority removed to Illinois, reaching Morris on the 13th of April, 1859. His brother, Joseph D. Hill, was then living in Mazon township, and having entered land there in 1844 was the owner of valuable farms. William worked for his brother for one year and then returned to Delaware county, Ohio, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for a year. He was married there, on the 10th of September, 1861, to Thirza A. Lea, who was born in Westchester county, New York, October 11, 1844, a daughter of Benjamin and Thirza (Holmes) Lea.

Her father was born in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, England, January 9, 1807, obtained a good common-school education, and became a carpet-weaver. He had a sister, Ann, who married John Harris and settled in New York. His brother, William, went to the East Indies during the war there and has never been heard from since that time. Benjamin Lea was married in England when about twenty-four years of age, to Thirza Holmes, and the following day they started for America, sailing from Liverpool for New York, where they arrived after a voyage of seven weeks. Mr. Lea settled at West Farms, now a part of New York city, and became a foreman in the carpet factory. In 1848 he took up his abode on a farm in Morrow county, Ohio, where he purchased one hundred acres of partially improved land. He finished the work of clearing the property and made a good home. Subsequently he traded it for a farm of one hundred and eighty-four acres in Delaware county, Ohio, four miles from Ashley, and clearing the trees from that tract he transformed the wild land into richly cultivated fields and erected two houses and substantial barns. He made a specialty of raising sheep on an extensive scale, and was a prosperous and successful agriculturist. He had had no experience at farm work when he came to this country, but his practical ideas and sound judgment enabled him to readily master the principles of the work and to become an excellent manager and successful business man. His undaunted integrity of character made him highly respected by all. Both he and his wife held membership in the Presbyterian church and were very regular in their attendance at its services. His political support was given to the Republican party, and during the civil war he was a stanch advocate of the Union cause. In his family were the following children: George; John, who died at the age of nineteen; Alexander, Thomas, Adella U. and Thirza A. The first named responded to the country's call for troops, becoming a member of the Ninety-sixth Ohio Infantry, from which he was transferred to the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Ohio, continuing with that command until the close of hostilities.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hill rented land three miles from Ashley, Delaware county, Ohio, making their home at that place for one

year, whence they came to Illinois, in November, 1863. Our subject then rented a farm in Mazon township, and after eight years purchased land in Braceville township, becoming the owner of a tract of eighty acres of raw prairie, upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He bought eighty acres more, and sold the place and moved to the present farm. He has now one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, well timbered and well watered by Mazon creek. He placed his fields under a high state of cultivation and garners rich harvests as the reward of his labors. By the assistance of his estimable wife, who has been indeed a faithful helpmate to him, he has become the possessor of a comfortable competence, and they have a very pleasant home situated on the banks of the Mazon, at Willmington Ford. Their union has been blessed with the following children: George; William, who died at the age of nineteen years; Mary; Belle; Allen G.; Lucinda; Mary; Charles A.; Frank; Richard; Rowland; and Winnie. In his political views Mr. Hill is a supporter of Republican principles. His life has been one of industry, crowned with the reward which ever follows judicious industry. He and his wife enjoy the warm friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

SAMUEL HOGE.

This gentleman is now connected with the business interests of Chicago, but is well known in the town of Stockdale and county of Grundy. For some time he was an enterprising member of the Stockdale Grain Company.

A native of Erienna township, this county, he was born on the 12th of August, 1877, and is a son of Joshua Hoge, a well known citizen of the county and prominently connected with business affairs here. On his father's farm he spent his boyhood days, becoming familiar with the labors and duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. His preliminary education was acquired in the public schools of Morris, and subsequently he continued his studies in the University of Grinnell, Iowa, and in Ottawa, Illinois, where he took a commercial course.

In the fall of 1897, when the Stockdale Grain Company was established, he became one of its members and continued to devote his energies to its successful conduct until April, 1900, when he sold out. The company does a large grain business at Stockdale and also conducts its general store. Before disposing of his interests there, Mr. Hoge, on the 2d of October, 1899,

entered into partnership with George H. Phillips in the commission brokerage business on the Chicago Board of Trade, with his office at No. 232 Rialto building. He is a young man of marked industry and of keen discernment, and undoubtedly a successful future awaits him.

ROBERT D. MENOUGH.

Robert D. Menough was a representative of one of the pioneer families of Grundy county and actively connected with its agricultural interests. His highly improved farm indicates his careful supervision and his practical and progressive spirit. For more than half a century the family had been found in this locality. Hiram B. Menough, the grandfather of our subject, was a son of one of the pioneers of southern Indiana, his birth having occurred in Frankfort, Kentucky, December 25, 1812, and was of French lineage. At a very early day his parents crossed the Ohio river into the Hoosier state on account of Indian troubles in Kentucky, and were early settlers of Vincennes, Indiana. Colonel John L. Menough, a brother of Hiram B. Menough, was captured by the Delaware Indians in 1811, being taken from his farm near Vincennes, but was soon after recaptured. He served his country in various public capacities for many years and his long and useful life was terminated in June, 1879, when he was called to the home beyond.

Hiram B. Menough was wedded in Lebanon, Indiana, October 4, 1832, to Miss Martha Patlock, who was born in South Carolina, November 29, 1813. With his family he came to Grundy county, Illinois, in the spring of 1844, taking up his residence in Mazon township, at a time when its settlements were widely scattered. They located one and one-half miles southeast of Mazon on a tract of wild prairie and there Mr. Menough spent his remaining days. His children were as follows: Robert, who married Harriet Rowen; Elizabeth, who married Charles Nance; James, who wedded Louisa McKean; Martha, wife of Henry Baird; and Thareby, the wife of William Howell. The father of these children was a Democrat in his political affiliations and a sterling pioneer settler who did all in his power to aid the development and substantial improvement of the community. He was among those who laid the foundation of the present prosperity and progress of the county. He died August 25, 1899, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

Robert Delone Menough was born in Washington county, Indiana, July 21, 1823, and received the usual common-school education afforded to the

farmers' boys of the west at that time. He came to Illinois with his parents in the spring of 1844, when about eleven years of age, and was here reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier. On the 24th of July, 1856, he married Harriet J. Rowen, who was born December 4, 1833, a daughter of David and Martha Rowen. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and was a farmer and local minister of the Methodist church. On leaving his native state he removed to Ohio, where he was married, and in 1844 he took up his residence near Olney, Illinois, whence he came to Grundy county, establishing his home near Mazon. He was a well known pioneer Methodist minister who preached the gospel in many districts of the state, carrying the glad tidings of great joy to the frontier settlers. In politics he was a Republican, joining the party on its organization. He died in 1861, when about fifty years of age. His children were Harriet, McClure, Irving, Eliza and Edwin. Two of his sons, McClure and Irving, were soldiers in the civil war.

At the time of his marriage Robert D. Menough located on his present farm in Mazon township. This he cleared and improved, and to the original tract of one hundred and sixty acres he added until he now has a valuable property of two hundred and forty acres. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Menough was blessed with the following children: Lora E., born August 1, 1857; Ora L., born August 27, 1859; Laura E., born March 18, 1861; Lida B., born June 3, 1863; James M., born March 12, 1865; Robert R., born May 24, 1867; Louella A., born September 1, 1869; Hiram A., born October 21, 1873; and Volney W., born November 18, 1871. Two of the number are now deceased, Ora L. having passed away November 28, 1884, while Volney W. died April 25, 1899. Lora E. was married in 1895 to James Hanson, a farmer of Minnesota. Laura A. is the wife of Joseph Horrie, of Morris, and their children are Lalla Rookh, Harold and Massie. Lida B. is the wife of Thaddeus Gillespie and they have a son, named Parks. James M. wedded Gertrude Murray, by whom he had three children—Robert, Rollin and Gail—and their home is in Mazon. Robert R., Louella A. and Hiram are still living on the old homestead, and the two sons are practical and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers. The children have all been provided with good educational privileges. Some of the sons are graduates of the Commercial College of Kankakee, and Louella A. has been for seven years a teacher in the schools of Grundy county, while Lora and Lida were also successful teachers. Both Mr. and Mrs. Menough were members of the Methodist church, and in politics, he was a Democrat. He died April 20, 1884, and his wife passed away September 18, 1897. They were people of sterling worth whose many excellencies of character won for them the confidence and respect of all who knew them. In their death the community lost two of its best citizens, and their family mourned the loss of

father and mother who had been most devoted to their interests and untiring in their efforts to promote their welfare.

HUGH M. HILL.

For more than a third of a century Hugh M. Hill has been a resident of Grundy county, and is one of the substantial agriculturists of Maine township. His entire life has been devoted to the work of the farm, and in his career he has at all times manifested those sterling qualities of enterprise, industry and honesty which lead to success and win the respect and confidence of people of worth.

Mr. Hill was born in Delaware county, Ohio, December 7, 1841, a son of John A. and Esther (Marsh) Hill. His grandfather, Stephen Hill, was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was of Pennsylvania Dutch lineage. In pioneer days in that county Stephen Hill, Sr., the great-grandfather of our subject, cleared a good farm of two hundred and fifty acres in the midst of the forest and made a comfortable home for his family. On leaving the Keystone state Stephen Hill, Jr., the grandfather, took up his abode in Concord township, Delaware county, Ohio, where he purchased eleven hundred acres of land. That was at a period of development in the history of Delaware county and land could be bought for a nominal price. He cleared much of the tract which he purchased, making a good pioneer home, and as the years passed by he gave one hundred and twenty acres of land to each of his sons and sixty acres each to his daughters. In the family were eight children, namely: Joseph, George, Adam, Stephen, Benjamin, Joshua, Sarah, and Betsy. His son Joseph bored a deep well for salt, and when he had reached a depth of one hundred and forty feet discovered a famous sulphur spring, which has made the place known as a watering resort. It is situated about ten miles north of the city of Delaware. Stephen Hill spent his remaining days upon the homestead farm in Delaware county, where he died at the age of ninety-six years. He was a well-known pioneer citizen of the community, having taken up his abode there when Indians were still in the neighborhood, but he always treated them kindly and found that they gave him their friendship in return. He was a noted hunter and skillful marksman, and his trusty rifle brought down excellent game. Upon his farm he erected a large stone residence, his children all remaining at home until they were married and went to homes of their own. The family was one of the most prominent pioneer families of Delaware county. Mr. and Mrs. Hill were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and were the friends of progress along all lines. Mr. Hill was particularly well educated for his day, and several of his sons

became school teachers. In Pennsylvania he had been a slave owner and brought two of his slaves with him to Ohio, where he gave them their freedom. One of them, William Utter, afterward became a successful barber of Columbus, Ohio, where he lived for many years. In the death of Stephen Hill, Delaware county lost one of its most reliable, enterprising and honored pioneer citizens.

John A. Hill, the father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, near the Monongahela river, remaining in that locality until seventeen years of age. He went with his father's family to Delaware county, Ohio, and there became celebrated for his skill as a marksman. He often entered into contests with the Indians, and on many occasions demonstrated that he was a better shot than they. They often hunted together and the Indians frequently did him a good turn. All kinds of wild game could be secured during the days of his early residence in Delaware county and he killed as many as seventeen deer in a single week. Becoming one of the pioneer farmers of the community, he operated one hundred and twenty acres of the old Hill farm given him by his father, and his enterprising efforts brought to him creditable success. He married Esther Marsh, who was born in New York and was a representative of an old English family, her father being Benjamin Marsh, who removed from the Empire state to Delaware county, Ohio, in pioneer days. Here he bought one hundred and fifty acres of land, becoming one of the leading agriculturists of the neighborhood. He died in Delaware county, Ohio, at the age of seventy-four years, and in his death the community lost a citizen of the highest respectability. He long held membership with the Methodist church, in which he was a class-leader. He played exceedingly well on the fife, and during the civil war he often played for the soldiers. His children were Josiah, Joel, William, John, Esther and Martha, who married John Swain, of Ohio.

After his marriage John A. Hill located on the farm given him by his father and performed the arduous task of clearing away the trees, developing the wild land into richly cultivated fields. His home was blessed with the presence of the following children: Joseph, Martha, Henry D. and Clarinda (twins), Jane, Sarah, Lucinda, Lucy, William, Hugh M. and Esther, all of whom were born on the old homestead in Delaware county. The mother of this family died in 1855, and Mr. Hill afterward wedded Mary Goodwin. He sold the old homestead farm in Delaware county and purchased a small timber farm in Kenton county, Ohio, upon which he spent his remaining days, his death occurring at the age of eighty-five. He was a straightforward, honorable man and a good citizen and reared an excellent family.

Hugh M. Hill, the subject of this review, first opened his eyes to the

light of day on the old family homestead in Delaware county. He was reared upon the farm and in his youth became familiar with the arduous task of clearing and developing land, his labors in that direction making him a skillful woodsman. When a small boy he commenced work in a sugar camp, which comprised twenty-seven acres, the manufacture of maple sugar and molasses being one of the principal departments of the farm work. His labors there, however, prevented him from attending school in the early spring time and his educational privileges were therefore very limited. In 1863, when twenty-one years of age, with his brother William he came to Illinois, making the journey by team. He arrived in the month of October, after fourteen and a half days spent upon the way, and went to the home of his brother Joseph, who was living at Sulphur Springs, in what is now Maine township. For a time he engaged in farm work. He was married January 21, 1868, in Braceville township, Grundy county, to Miss Rosenah Mary Fry, who was born September 9, 1845, in Dorsetshire, England, her parents being Henry and Betsy (Stevens) Fry. Her father was born in Dorsetshire, England, August 4, 1820, and was a son of John and Emily Fry, also natives of that land, in which they spent their entire lives. John Fry followed farming and carpentering in Dorsetshire, and by means of the dual occupation supported his family, which numbered five children, namely: John, Thomas, Emily, William and Henry. The last named was reared upon the home farm, learned the baker's trade, and in his native county married Betsy Stevens, who was born in England and was a daughter of Samuel and Mary Stevens. Her father was a well-to-do farmer, and in his last years lived retired, his income being sufficient to supply him with all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life. The property of the Stevens family was quite extensive, but none of it came into possession of the representatives of the name in America. The children of Samuel Stevens were Mary Ann, Eliza, Amelia, Betsy, Martha, Isabel, Samuel and Stephen. The last named died in England. Henry Fry, the father of Mrs. Hill, carried on farming in Dorsetshire for some time after his marriage, and five children were born of the union in that country, namely: Mary R.; Harriet E., who died at the age of two years; Isabel; Emily and Julia E. In 1856 Mr. Fry came to America, taking passage in Liverpool on the sailing vessel Calhoun, which dropped anchor in the harbor of New York in the latter part of June, after a voyage of four weeks, which was considered a remarkably quick passage at that time. He immediately continued his journey to Kendall county, where he arrived July 3, 1856, making his way to the home of Mrs. Mary A. Mabey, a sister of Mrs. Fry, who had located in Kendall county four years previous. There a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fry, Isabel Emily, died three days later. Her death resulted from scarlet fever con-

tracted on the voyage. Mr. Fry purchased eighty acres of land across the road from the farm, upon which E. H. Robinson now resides. A small house had been built and a tract was fenced, but otherwise no improvements had been made, and with characteristic energy Mr. Fry began its further development. Subsequently he purchased eighty acres of the farm upon which Mr. Hill now resides, and an eighty-acre tract adjoining his home property, so that his landed possessions aggregated two hundred and forty acres. In his undertaking he prospered, becoming one of the successful farmers and extensive cattle dealers of the community, but on account of lameness his labors were hampered. He had no son to aid him, so that his daughters worked on the farm, and the united efforts of the family resulted in securing a very comfortable home. Mr. Fry was a member of the Methodist church and in politics was a Republican. He died February 22, 1874, at the age of fifty-three years, leaving to his family a good estate and an untarnished name. After his marriage Mr. Hill located on the farm where he now resides, renting the property of Mr. Fry for five years. After his father-in-law's death he lived upon his farm for a year and then returned to his present home. By hard work and unflagging enterprise he has greatly improved the property, has drained it with tiling and has extended the boundaries of the farm from time to time until he is now the owner of two hundred acres of rich and arable land. The place is improved with comfortable and substantial buildings, and all the accessories of a model farm are there found.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hill has been blessed with the following children: Julia Ellen, born November 17, 1868; Giles A., born December 6, 1870; Mary J., born December 20, 1872; Alfred, who was born March 29, 1875, and died September 7, 1894; Amelia, born June 12, 1878; Edwin, born March 17, 1881; and Henry and Emily, twins, born April 28, 1884. Mrs. Hill is a member of the Methodist church and Mr. Hill contributes of his means to its support. In politics he is a Republican, unswerving in his advocacy of the principles of the party. His life has been one of industry and honesty, and he certainly deserves great credit for the success which he has achieved and which has resulted from his capable management and unfailing industry. He is widely known among the residents of Maine township and enjoys the respect of his fellow citizens.

OWEN H. FULLER.

During the colonial epoch in the American history there came to the shores of New England a sturdy band of Puritans, who crossed the Atlantic in the Mayflower, and among the number were two brothers, Samuel and

Edward Fuller, who were signers of the famous compact drawn by the colonists who had braved the dangers of the ocean voyage in order to enjoy religious liberties in the New World. It is from these brothers that many representatives of the name of Fuller are descended. Matthew Fuller, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, in 1768, and became a cooper by trade. After his marriage he located in Salisbury, Connecticut, and about 1808 removed to New York, locating in Tully, Onondaga county, where he carried on farming. He secured there a tract of timber land and cleared the same, transforming it into richly cultivated fields, which yielded him good harvests in return for his labor. Upon that farm he spent his remaining days, dying in 1860, at the venerable age of ninety-two years. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812, and with a militia company was on his way to Plattsburg when news was received that the battle there had been fought and won. He was a man of iron constitution, of strong principles and of strict morality, commanding the respect of all who knew him. His children were Matthew, Augustus, Albert, Hiram, Austin, Philena, Edward, Harlow, Permelia and Ruth.

Hiram Fuller, the father of our subject, was born December 31, 1803, at Salisbury, Connecticut, and was afforded the usual common-school privileges of the day. In Onondaga county, New York, about 1825, he married Mary Ann Owen, who was born in Saratoga county, that state, on the 9th of January, 1806, a daughter of Elijah and Mehitable (Nash) Owen. Her father was a son of Jonathan Owen, one of the officers in the American army during the war of the Revolution. The family was founded in Massachusetts in colonial days, and representatives of the name became pioneer settlers of Saratoga county, New York. Elijah Owen, the maternal grandfather of our subject, died in middle life. His children were Permelia, Amanda, Sophia, Lydia, Mary Ann, Augustus and Alexander K. Elijah Owen was a substantial farmer and respected citizen, who constructed a part of the Erie Canal under contract. At an early period in the development of Onondaga county, New York, he removed to that locality.

After his marriage Hiram Fuller located in Onondaga county, and there resided upon a farm for about eleven years, coming to Illinois in 1839. On the 10th of May of that year he and his family left their home in the Empire state, proceeding by team to Syracuse, thence by canal to Buffalo, by the Great Lakes to Chicago, and by team to Mazon, where they arrived on the 31st of May, 1839. Here Mr. Fuller secured a tract of wild land and improved a farm, upon which he remained until 1855, when he took up his residence in the village of old Mazon, where he engaged in general merchandising. For many years he and his wife were members of the Methodist church, and their lives were in harmony with their professions. His political

support was given the Democracy, and he held several local offices, including that of township clerk. He was also justice of the peace for many years, and discharged his duties with marked promptness and fidelity. His children were: Elizabeth, born November 23, 1828; Owen H., born January 19, 1834; Velasco L., born May 10, 1836; and Orville C., born April 10, 1850. Mr. Fuller died in Mazon, April 17, 1872, when about sixty-eight years of age, and in his death the community lost one of its valued citizens.

Owen H. Fuller, whose name introduces this record, was born in Onondaga county, New York, January 19, 1834, and pursued his education in Illinois, attending the subscription schools. His advantages in that direction, however, were rather limited, but experience, observation and reading made him a well-informed man. He was only five years of age at the time of the removal of the family to the west, and he can well remember the journey, and also has a vivid recollection of his labors on the home farm. Subsequently he learned the carriage-maker's trade and, after his marriage, he located on a farm of sixty acres in Mazon township.

He was only twenty years of age when, on the 31st of July, 1853, he wedded Miss Weltha Isham, who was born in St. George, Vermont, October 23, 1836, a daughter of Gursham and Eliza Ann (Sanford) Isham. Her grandfather, Jehiel Isham, was born in Vermont, was a farmer by occupation, and served his country in the war of 1812. He had his belt shot off at the battle of Plattsburg. After his marriage he located upon a farm near Williston, and afterward made his home at St. George, ten miles from Burlington, Vermont. He was a substantial agriculturist of the Green Mountain state, industrious, enterprising and progressive. He lived to be about ninety years of age and was accounted one of the most respected citizens of his community. His children were all born in Williston, Vermont, and were named as follows: Henry, Ebbins, Silas, Ezra, Amasa, Elias, William, Gursham, Cassius, Sophia, Sallie, Docia and Eunice.

Gursham Isham, the father of Mrs. Fuller, was born in Williston, Vermont, on the 31st of March, 1801, received the usual privileges of pioneer days, and was reared upon the home farm. He also learned the mason's trade. On the 9th of September, 1822, in Charlotte, Vermont, he married Miss Eliza Sanford, who was born in that city, February 22, 1802, her parents being Zachariah and Lydia Sanford. Her father was a tanner and shoemaker by trade, and lived upon a farm. He was also a representative of one of the old Vermont families. Removing to the Empire state, he took up his abode in St. Lawrence county about 1821, becoming one of the pioneer settlers. There he cleared and developed a good farm near the town of Canton and became a substantial agriculturist of the community. In 1843 he removed to McHenry county, Illinois, making his home with his two

sons, Stanley and Nelson Sanford. There he passed his remaining days, his death occurring when he was about eighty-seven years of age. His wife died when about ninety years of age. They were both members of the Methodist church and people of the highest respectability. Their children were Lorana, Aurilla, Betsey, Sally, Samantha, Hepsey, Eliza, Minerva, Polly, Clark, Israel, Stanley, Nelson, one who died in childhood and one whose name is not remembered. Nearly all reached the age of maturity, were married and reared families of their own.

Gursham Isham, the father of Mrs. Fuller, took up his abode in Williston, Vermont, living upon his father's farm for a time. He afterward made his home in St. George, Vermont, until his removal to St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1823. He cast in his lot with the early settlers of that locality, but in 1826 returned to St. George. Some years later, however, about 1838, he again went to St. Lawrence county, where he purchased a tract of land covered with heavy timber, only a small portion having been cleared. This farm was located in Canton township, and thereon he made his home until 1844, when he disposed of his business interests in the east and removed to Illinois in the fall of that year, making the journey with teams and wagons. His son-in-law, Richard Fuller, who had married Cornelia Isham, was with them. The party were six weeks in making the journey to McHenry county. They camped by the wayside, the women sleeping in the wagons, and they cooked their food over a camp fire in the usual pioneer style of the times. Mr. Isham rented land in McHenry county, Illinois, for one year, and in 1846 came to Mazon township, Grundy county, settling a mile east of the present site of the village of Mazon. There he pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of land, for which he paid a dollar and a quarter per acre. It was a tract of wild prairie, but he made there a good pioneer home and for many years maintained his residence on that farm. He then sold the property and bought one hundred and twenty acres of school land near the center of Mazon township. Some years later he retired from business life and lived in Mazon village until his death, which occurred October 8, 1877, when he was seventy-six years of age. His wife died March 8, 1896, at the advanced age of ninety-four. She was a member of the Methodist church and a woman of many virtues. Mr. Isham was in politics an old-line Whig until the dissolution of that party, when he joined the Republican party. The children of this worthy couple were: Cornelia, born in Chittenden county, Vermont, September 1, 1823; Albert, born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in April, 1825; Edward, born in Chittenden county, Vermont, January 15, 1828; Michael, born in Chittenden county, June 7, 1829; Zachariah, born in that county, February 11, 1831; Lydia, born in the same county, May 15, 1834; Weltha, born in Chittenden county,

October 23, 1836; Jehiel, born in Chittenden county, October 18, 1838; Clarinda, born in St. Lawrence county, New York, October 5, 1842. All of the children were married with the exception of Sallie A. and Eliza, both of whom died in early life.

In order to give the history of the Sanford family to which Mrs. Isham belonged we publish the following article which occurred in the St. Lawrence, New York, Plaindealer:

"Russell, New York, October, 1875.

"Editor Plaindealer:—

"I noted in your paper of September 10th an account of the death of Mrs. Sallie Bachellor, of Pierpont, a sister of my mother. Perhaps a few lines in regard to who she was may be interesting to some of your readers. She was the widow of Samuel Bachellor, who died in Canton, New York, several years ago, and the daughter of Zachariah and Lydia Sanford, who came from Charlotte, Vermont, in 1821, with their family, settling in Canton, New York, where they remained until 1843, when they removed to Seneca, McHenry county, Illinois, with three of their sons, Israel, Nelson and Stanley. They traveled the whole distance by land, the father and mother driving in an open buggy and the sons and their families traveling in covered wagons. They stopped one week in Ohio to rest. They were then eighty years of age. They arrived at their destination in their usual good health. Her father planted a peach orchard soon after their arrival and lived to eat peaches that grew on his trees. They were the parents of fifteen children, one of whom died, but fourteen lived to rear families of their own. Their parents were very pious people and were members of the Methodist church. By their good example and precepts they had the pleasure of seeing thirteen of their children members of the church, twelve joining the church of their parents' choice, the other, Mrs. Sallie Bachellor, being a close-communion Baptist. They were very industrious and temperate, and the husband supported his family by his trade, being a tanner, currier and shoemaker. The wife, whose hands were never idle, sat at the old family loom weaving her ten yards of cloth in one day or spinning wool and tow at the great wheel, or sat singing at the little wheel spinning linen from the flax on the distaff with both hands, as her wheel filled two spools at the same time, thus doing two days' work in one. All of the children were taught to work while young, the sons helping their father, while the daughters were taught to spin, weave, sew, knit and do general housework, each having their allotted task. When they had finished their day's work all gathered around their evening meal, after which they all joined in the singing (the parents being good singers, the children were taught to sing). After the singing followed the evening prayer, led by the father, before retiring for the night. There was formed in that family circle a tie which has never been broken, except by death. There were at that time one hundred and seventy-five of their descendants, thirteen of their children and one hundred and fifty-seven of their grand and great-grandchildren. Their

oldest son lived to be eighty years old, and the second seventy-nine. One daughter died, having been the mother of six children. On the 1st of February, 1874, there were still living eleven of the children. Mrs. Hepsibah Barbar died in February, 1874, in Massachusetts, at the age of eighty-five years. Mrs. Sallie Bachellor died September 5, 1874, aged eighty-three years and ten months. There are nine children still living (1875), the oldest is eighty-eight and the youngest sixty-six. The united age of those still living is six hundred and eighty-one years. Their father and mother were aged respectively eighty-seven and ninety years when they died. The record is correct and true, as I have the old family record lying before me while I write, and my mother is sitting beside me as prompter. She is seventy-one years old and enjoys the best of health and her mental faculties are unimpaired. She is the youngest of seven daughters in a row, six of whom are still living, three in St. Lawrence county, New York,—Mrs. Aurilla Olin, of Canton; Mrs. Samantha Lincoln, of Sabin Corners; and Mrs. Minerva Crary, of Pierpont. All attended Mrs. Sallie Bachellor's funeral in Pierpont, September 6th. Mrs. Marcia A. Royce."

To return to the family of Gursham Isham, father of Mrs. Fuller, we note that he was a farmer of St. George, Vermont, but removed from the Green Mountain state to St. Lawrence county, New York, whence he came to Illinois in 1844, settling in McHenry county. Two years later, in 1846, he came to Mazon township, Grundy county, where he spent his remaining days. A tract of wild land he transformed into a rich farm and became one of the successful agriculturists of the community. During his boyhood he witnessed from an adjoining hill the battle of Plattsburg, one of the most important engagements of the war of 1812. His political support was given the Whig party, and on its dissolution he joined the ranks of the Republican party.

The land upon which Mr. Fuller located at the time of his marriage was a tract of wild prairie, on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but he at once began its development and soon transformed a portion of it into rich fields. On selling that property he engaged in the manufacture of wagons in old Mazon, carrying on the business for fifteen years. In 1875 he began dealing in coal and lumber, and in 1878 he enlarged the field of his operations by the purchase and sale of grain. In this enterprise he was associated with A. O. Murry from December, 1875, until 1883. The firm did an extensive business, its members being the first to engage in operations along those lines in Mazon. In the spring of 1876 Mr. Murry built the present elevator and Mr. Fuller purchased the property in 1883. He became one of the best known men in his line of business in Grundy county, and successfully carried on operations on an extensive scale until 1896, when he sold out to his son, Olney B., who still conducts the

business. Mr. Fuller has since lived retired, enjoying the rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fuller have been born the following children: Olney B., born December 18, 1860, was married October 25, 1883, to Josie Wright, whose birth occurred in Ancona, Illinois, December 11, 1861. Their children are Earl D., born April 1, 1885; Ray E., born May 30, 1887; and Carrie Ferne, born January 23, 1893. Alta A., born November 1, 1863, is the wife of O. S. Viner, a farmer of Mazon township, and their children are Flossie and Fred. R. Dale, born December 10, 1865, married Lulu Keltner, by whom he has three children, Ethal, Hazel and Eulalia. He is now engaged in the grain business. Olin M., born December 30, 1867, died in August, 1887, at the age of twenty years. Erlan G., born December 25, 1875, is a graduate of the medical department of the Northwestern University at Chicago, Illinois, and is now a practicing physician of Chicago.

In his political affiliations Mr. Fuller is a stanch Democrat, and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, elected him justice of the peace, in which position he served for three years. He has also been notary public and village president five terms. He has prospered in his business affairs, his industry, sagacity and capable management winning him success. He sustains a high reputation for reliability and is known as an enterprising and loyal citizen, who gives his support to every measure which he believes will prove of public good. Mrs. Fuller is a member of the Methodist church, and a pioneer mother of many virtues.

WILLIAM D. BRIDEL.

The specific history of the west was made by the pioneers; it was emblematically emblazoned on the forest trees by the strength of sturdy arms and gleaming ax, and written on the surface of the earth by the primitive plow. These were strong men and true that came to found the empire of the west—these hardy settlers who builded their rude domiciles, grappled with the giants of the forest, and from the sylvan wilds evolved the fertile and productive fields which have these many years been furrowed by the plowshare and traversed by rejoicing harvest hands. The red man in his motley garb stalked through the dim, woody avenues, and the wild beasts disputed his dominion. The trackless prairie was made to yield its tribute under the effective endeavors of the pioneer, and slowly but surely were laid the steadfast foundations upon which has been builded the magnificent superstructure of an opulent and enlightened commonwealth. To establish a home under such surroundings, and to cope with the many privations and hardships

Wm P Brudell

which were the inevitable concomitants, demanded invincible courage and fortitude, strong hearts and willing hands. All these were characteristics of the pioneers, whose names and deeds should be held in perpetual reverence by those who enjoy the fruits of their toil.

Mr. Bridel is numbered among the early settlers of Grundy county who took up their abode in Maine township at an early day. He was born in Southchard, Somersetshire, England, June 5, 1826, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Diment) Bridel. His paternal grandfather, Richard Bridel, was a cooper by trade and owned a small property in England, consisting of a home, his shop and about five acres of orchard and meadow land. His industry brought to him a comfortable competence and he lived to a ripe old age, his death occurring when he had passed the ninetieth milestone on life's journey. By his first marriage he had two sons, John and Richard, and by his second union he had a son and daughter, Robert and Rachel.

Robert Bridel, the father of our subject, was born in Somersetshire, about 1805, and received a common-school education. Under his father's direction he learned the cooper's trade in early life and followed that business in his native land. In the county of his birth he married Mary Diment, who was born in Somersetshire, and by their marriage they became the parents of the following named: William D.; Richard; Mary, who died in England when about six years of age; Isabel; Mary, the second of that name; Rachel; Robert; and a daughter, Alice, who died, aged about nine years, when on the journey to Kendall county, Illinois, having been bitten by a rattlesnake.

In 1841 Mr. Bridel determined to seek a home in the New World and secured passage on the sailing vessel Europe, which weighed anchor in the harbor at Liverpool, and after a voyage of six weeks and three days reached New York city, and Mr. Bridel made his first location in Plymouth, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming. About five years later he came to Illinois, by canal and steamboat, locating in Kendall county, October 14, 1846. He secured one hundred and one acres of government land, which he transformed into a good farm. Later he came to Grundy county, but did not sell his farm in Kendall county. His wife died in 1858, in what was then Braceville township but is now Maine township, and her death was widely mourned, for she was a woman of many virtues, having the respect and friendship of all who knew her. Mr. Bridel afterward returned to Kendall county, where he was again married, to Alice Sutliff, a widow, but by the second union he had no children. His death occurred in that county, when he was about eighty-two years of age.

William D. Bridel obtained a common-school education in England, and when about fifteen years of age accompanied his parents on their journey

across the briny deep. He remained with his father until he had attained his majority, when he entered eighty acres of government land in Kendall county, Illinois, ten miles south of Oswego, and began farming on his own account. In 1854, however, he came to Grundy county and purchased three hundred and twenty-one and a half acres of land, at five dollars per acre. It is well watered by Mazon creek and is a rich and arable tract, which returns to the owner a good tribute for the care and cultivation he bestows upon it. He erected a comfortable and commodious residence, made other needed improvements and engaged in raising horses, cattle, hogs and grain. His thorough understanding of his business, his capable management and close application enabled him to win prosperity. During the early years of his business career his sister Rachel acted as his housekeeper, but when thirty-six years of age, in April, 1862, he was married, in Maine township, Grundy county, to Caroline R. Towns, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, a daughter of Aaron and Mary (Green) Towns. Her father was an early settler in Kendall county, and also took up his abode in Grundy county at an early period of its development. He was a native of New York state and was of New England ancestry. His children were Joshua, Edward, William, Sarah, Caroline and Clarinda. Mr. Towns died in this township at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Bridel, with whom he had made his home for fifteen years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bridel have been born the following children: William H., born in 1863; Mary R., 1865; George W., 1867; Robert, April 21, 1869; Lillie E., August 11, 1876; and a daughter, Belle, who died when about seven months of age.

Our subject has successfully engaged in farming operations and is today the owner of a valuable and productive farm, comprising three hundred and twenty-one and a half acres of the rich land of central Illinois. In politics he is a Democrat, and he has held the office of school director, but has never sought or desired political preferment, wishing rather to give his entire time and attention to his business interests, in which he has met with creditable success.

GEORGE W. BOOTH.

George W. Booth, now living a retired life in Gardner, was for many years actively connected with the business interests of Grundy county, making a specialty of the breeding of fine stock. He was also connected with the banking business in Onaga, Kansas, for a time. His birth occurred on a farm on the Western Reserve in Trumbull county, Ohio. He is descended from one of the old colonial families of Puritan stock, his ancestors being among the first settlers around Massachusetts Bay, coming to this country

between 1630 and 1635. The grandfather of our subject was a farmer of Litchfield county, Connecticut, and was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. He participated in the battle of Bunker Hill. The story goes that he was plowing in the field with his little nine-year-old son, Moses, when news was brought to him of the advance of the British. He was at that time driving a yoke of oxen across the field, but he immediately removed the oxen from the plow, and, leaving them standing in the furrow, started with his little son to the scene of activity, expecting to place the boy in some secure spot. This he did not do, however, and Moses Booth accompanied his father to the field where the patriot army succeeded in checking the advance of the British, and although they met defeat it was a defeat which amounted to a victory. This story of the manner in which he took part in the battle of Bunker Hill was often told by Moses Booth to his children in his old age. One of his brothers was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill.

Moses Booth was a farmer and was married in Litchfield, Connecticut, to Sarah Judson, by whom his children were Truman, Moses, Samuel, and several others whose names are now forgotten. In 1825 Mr. Booth removed to the Western Reserve in Ohio, locating on land in Trumbull county, where he cleared a fine farm, upon which he spent his remaining days. His first wife died in Ohio and he afterward wedded Myra Hubbell, who was born in New Haven, Connecticut, probably at Bridgeport. Her father, Elijah Hubbell, was a soldier of the war of 1812, and was the father of Charles P. Hubbell, a well known carriage manufacturer and business man of Bridgeport. Among his other children were Levi; Silas Liberty, who was killed in the Seminole Indian war in Florida, when Colonel Dade and his command were massacred; Harriet; and a daughter, Lucy, who became the wife of Mr. Dorman. Elijah Hubbell, the father, followed the blacksmith's trade in Connecticut and died in that state at an advanced age. His wife lived to the venerable age of ninety years.

After his marriage, Moses Booth made his home in Trumbull county, Ohio, and he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church there and were most highly respected citizens. He lived to be eighty-nine years of age and passed away on the old homestead, in February, 1856. In politics he was an old-line Whig and afterward became a supporter of the Free-Soil party. Straightforward in all his business dealings and of upright character, he was greatly respected as a man and a citizen. His wife long survived him and passed away in July, 1882. She was a lady of many virtues and enjoyed the warm regard of all who knew her. The children of Moses and Myra (Hubbell) Booth, were George W.; Terressa, the wife of Henry Waters; and Emma, the wife of Robert Brisco.

George W. Booth, whose name introduces this review, was born on

the 13th of January, 1837, in Trumbull county, Ohio. He acquired a common-school education and has since added greatly to his fund of knowledge by practical experience in the business world and through reading and observation. He has also been a great reader of newspapers and of standard literature. When twenty years of age he left home and began farming on his own account. He soon became a cattle drover on the Western Reserve, in Ohio, being in the employ of F. N. Andrews, one of the most extensive cattle dealers in this section of the state.

As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, Mr. Booth chose Miss Caroline Rainey, the wedding being celebrated in Howland, Trumbull county, Ohio. The lady was born in that county in 1838, and is a daughter of William Rainey, whose birth occurred in Ireland. He was of Scotch-Irish descent and a farmer by occupation. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Booth were born two children, but one died in infancy. The other, Mary, married Lyman Hawley, and died in 1888, leaving two daughters—Maud and Edith.

In April, 1863, Mr. Booth removed to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he conducted a stock farm owned by Elias Trumbo. He managed that farm for about five years, but in the latter part of 1868 removed to Braceville township, now Maine township. A few years later he bought the farm which is now owned and occupied by Lyman Hawley. That place he reclaimed from the wilderness, placing it under a high state of cultivation and erected a substantial dwelling thereon. He was extensively engaged in stock-raising, making a specialty of the breeding of Durham short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs. He was very successful in the business and became well known in Illinois and the surrounding states as an extensive and successful stock-raiser, feeder and shipper. For about nine years he was associated in business with Lyman Hawley. Improving the farm, he also added to it from time to time until he became the owner of two hundred and twenty acres of rich land, which he carefully cultivated and improved, making it a very valuable property. In 1886 his nephew, O. J. Booth, who was engaged in a private banking business, died in Onaga, Kansas, and Mr. Booth, of this review, was called upon to settle his estate, which was valued at sixty thousand dollars. Mr. Booth discharged his duties to the utmost satisfaction of all concerned, and, while in the west, he became a partner in the Onaga City Bank, in which he served as assistant cashier for some years. He still retains his ownership in the bank, although he is not now actively connected with its business management.

Mrs. Booth died December 18, 1891, in Onaga. She was a member of the Baptist church and a lady of many virtues, highly esteemed by her friends. On the 6th of September, 1893, in Joliet, Illinois, Mr. Booth was again married, his second union being with Harriet L. Hunt, of Montpelier,

Vermont, a sister of Mrs. Lyman Hawley. Mr. and Mrs. Booth spent the first three years of their married life in Onaga, Kansas, but are now residents of Gardner. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, becoming one of the earliest supporters of the party, his first ballot being cast for Abraham Lincoln. He served as chairman of the board of county supervisors for many years and is still one of its members. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic Lodge of Gardner, and his wife is a member of the Episcopal church. His has been an active, useful and honorable career, characterized by loyalty to every manly principle and to those duties which go to make up good citizenship. He has steadily advanced to his present enviable position in social circles, but he started out in life empty-handed.

HIRAM JONES.

Hiram Jones, a veteran of the civil war and an intelligent and enterprising farmer of Greenfield township, Grundy county, was born in Somerset county, Maine, at the town of Athens, May 4, 1840, his parents being Thomas J. and Harriet (Small) Jones. The paternal grandparents were Samuel and Eleanor (Gray) Jones. The grandfather was a native of the Pine Tree state and served his country as a soldier during the war of 1812. By occupation he was a farmer and owned a valuable tract in Brighton, Maine. He was three times married, his first union being with Eleanor Gray. They had a son, Thomas J., and a daughter who lived to mature years. After the death of his first wife Mr. Jones was again married, and the children of the second union were Calvin, William and Eleanor. His third wife bore the maiden name of Olive Wiggins, and their children were Olive, Hannah, Orrin and Charles. The father died in Maine, after passing the ninetieth milestone on life's journey.

Thomas J. Jones, the father of our subject, was born in Somerset county, Maine, and became a farmer by occupation. In his native state he wedded Harriet Small, whose birth occurred in the Pine Tree state, and who was a daughter of Nathan and Susan (Corson) Small. Her father was a farmer by occupation, and, enlisting for service in the war of 1812, was stationed at Edgecomb, on the coast of Maine. Later he became a substantial farmer and respected citizen. He died on his farm in Somerset county, when more than eighty years of age. His children were: Alvin, Cushman, Nathan, Harrison, Franklin, Susan, Phoebe, Harriet and Lois. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Jones began their domestic life upon a farm in Somerset county, Maine, and for some years they lived near Athens, Somerset county, Maine, and there died aged about fifty-six years. His political support was

given the Democracy, and he was a man whose sterling qualities gained him the respect and confidence of his fellow men. His children were: Freeman, Henry, Hiram, Frank, Jefferson, Mary, Ann and Paulina. Two of the sons, Henry and Hiram, were soldiers in the civil war. The former served for three years and was a corporal of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry. He participated in many battles, but escaped without injuries, and was honorably discharged at the close of his three-years term.

Hiram Jones, whose name introduces this review, was born May 4, 1840. He was also trained to habits of industry and economy on the home farm, and early became familiar with all the duties and labors of field and meadow. After the inauguration of the civil war, when it was found that the south was not easily quelled, he joined the Union army at Athens, Maine, when twenty-three years of age, enlisting on the 20th of July, 1863, as a private of Company E, Seventeenth Maine Infantry, under command of Captain Sawyer. With that regiment he served until honorably discharged at Augusta, Maine, July 10, 1865, but on account of sickness was held until the 16th of October following. He served with the Army of the Potomac and participated in the battles of Locust Grove, Culpeper Court House, Bermuda, James River, North Ann River, Cold Harbor, the Wilderness, and the several engagements in front of Petersburg. This list includes some of the most hotly contested engagements of the war. On account of illness he was sent to City Point hospital, where he remained for about four weeks, being then sent to a hospital in Washington, where he continued for three weeks. For thirty days he remained at home on a furlough, and on the expiration of that time he received an extension of thirty days, continuing at home until discharged. He was always found at his post of duty and took part in all the campaigns, marches, battles and skirmishes of his regiment until illness prevented further duty. The hardships of war undermined his health, and he has never fully recovered.

Mr. Jones was married in Bingham, Maine, August 20, 1863, just before his enlistment, Miss Hannah Collins becoming his wife. She was born in Athens, Maine, October 28, 1839, and is a daughter of David and Abigail (Nichols) Collins. Her father belonged to an old New England family and was a son of Thomas and Nancy (Jewell) Collins, the former a native of New Hampshire. He served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812. In the old Granite state he wedded Miss Jewell and they became the parents of six children, namely: Calvin, Johnson, Franklin, Phoebe, Lydia, and David. Thomas Collins was a farmer of Somerset county, Maine, where his father had located when the country was new and developed a farm in the midst of the forest. He died in the Pine Tree state when about sixty-three years of age. David Collins, the father of Mrs. Jones, was born in

Somerset county, about 1812, and became a farmer and blacksmith. He married Abigail Nichols, whose birth occurred in Monmouth, Maine, in 1807. They then located on a farm in Athens, where they spent the remainder of their days. Their children were: Sarah, Hannah, Almatia, Phoebe and Darius. The father was a member of the Advent church and the mother of the Methodist church.

After his marriage Mr. Jones enlisted in the army, his wife remaining in Athens until his return. In December, 1867, they came to Illinois and rented land in the northern part of Highland township, Grundy county, for seven years, after which Mr. Jones purchased a tract of eighty acres in Greenfield township, in 1875. This was the nucleus of his present valuable property. As the result of his industry, economy and careful management he has year by year added to his possessions, and has now one of the valuable farms of the community. He owns two hundred acres of rich and arable land, upon which he has erected large and commodious farm buildings, his residence being a two-story frame structure. The home of our subject and his wife has been blessed with six children: Leland E., a farmer of Grundy county, married Rose E. Bennett, and they have one child, Harley; Bertram P., an insurance agent of Kankakee, Illinois, married Minnie Petrow and they have two children, Eveline and Warner; Millie B. is the wife of William Lees, a farmer of Greenfield township, by whom she has one child, Alta; and Byron C., Luella M. and Annie E. are still at home.

In politics Mr. Jones is a stanch Republican, giving an invincible support to the principles of the party. The cause of education has always found in him a warm friend, and during fourteen years service as school director he has largely promoted the welfare and effectiveness of the schools through the employment of good teachers and has encouraged all progressive methods. He is a public-spirited man who gives a generous support to all measures which he believes will prove of public benefit. During the civil war he was a loyal and faithful soldier, has reared an excellent family and has worked his way upward to a place among the prosperous farmers of his neighborhood.

EDWARD C. CRAGG.

Edward C. Cragg, a resident farmer of Wauponsee township, Grundy county, was born in Indiana, August 17, 1864, and is a son of Martin and Helen N. (Cavelly) Cragg, both of whom were natives of Grundy county.

The subject of this review was educated in the country schools and in the high school at Gardner, this county, where he pursued his studies for

two years. His training at farm labor was not meager, for as soon as old enough to handle the plow he began to assist his father in the cultivation of the fields. He remained upon the old homestead until 1894, managing the property, on which he raised garden vegetables and the cereals best adapted to this climate.

In that year Mr. Cragg was united in marriage to Miss Laura Shier, a daughter of Nicholas and Mary (Dunlavey) Shier, of Grundy county. The following year they removed to the farm in Mazon township, where they remained until 1897. Mr. Cragg then purchased his present farm and has since devoted his energies to its cultivation. During the summer season he acted as a thresher and corn-sheller, and in this way added materially to his income. He is practical and progressive in his methods of farming, and these qualities have brought to him quite a gratifying success. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Cragg has been blessed with one child, Helen May, who was born in May, 1898. In politics Mr. Cragg is a Republican, having supported that party ever since attaining his majority. He advocates all measures for the public good, but has never sought political office, preferring to devote his time and energies to agricultural pursuits that he may thus provide a good living and comfortable home for himself and family.

OLNEY B. FULLER.

One of the busy, energetic and enterprising men of Mazon is Olney B. Fuller, a very successful grain merchant, whose well-directed efforts are bringing to him creditable prosperity in the world of trade. He was born in this town, on the 18th of December, 1860, and is a son of Owen and Weltha (Isham) Fuller, whose history is given on another page of this work. He was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads, obtaining his education in the common schools of the neighborhood and in the normal school at Morris, where he pursued a commercial course for one term, his instructor being the now eminent Judge Orrin Carter, of Chicago. His business training was received under the direction of his father, a grain and lumber merchant, and when young he was noted for his industry and close application to his business duties. Their trade relation was maintained for a number of years, but in 1897 Mr. Fuller, of this review, purchased his father's interest and has since conducted the business alone, meeting with very creditable and enviable success. He is a well-known grain dealer and enjoys a splendid record for integrity and straightforward dealing. The volume of his business is constantly increasing and he now handles grain on an extensive scale, making large shipments.

On the 25th of October, 1883, Mr. Fuller was united in marriage to Miss Josie Wright, whose birth occurred in Ancona, Illinois, on the 11th of December, 1861, her father being Delos Wright, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller now have three interesting children: Earl D., who was born April 1, 1885; Ray E., who was born May 30, 1887; and Carrie Ferne, who was born January 23, 1893.

In his political views Mr. Fuller is independent, supporting the men whom he thinks best qualified for office, regardless of party affiliations. Fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Mazon and the chapter at Morris. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and holds membership with the Royal Neighbors. A friend of temperance and morality, he favors all public enterprises and movements that are calculated to prove of general good. He is especially interested in the cause of education and has served as a member of the school board for six consecutive years. During his incumbency the new and substantial school building was erected, he giving an earnest support to the work. He is still serving on the board and is also a member of the board of village trustees. He does a large share of the grain business in this section of Grundy county, owning one of the elevators in Mazon. He stands deservedly high as a man and as a citizen. He and his wife enjoy the warm regard of many friends in social life. They occupy a very tasteful and beautiful residence, which was erected in 1899, in modern style of architecture. It is an ornament to the town and is noted for its hospitality. Courteous, genial, well informed, alert and enterprising, Mr. Fuller stands to-day as one of the leading representative men of Mazon—a man who is a power in his community.

JOHN C. WHITMORE.

John C. Whitmore has long been connected with the development and progress of Grundy county. He is numbered among the leading agriculturists and pioneer settlers, and as the years have passed he has taken cognizance of the needs of the county, giving his support to all measures which he believes to be of public benefit. Such a course has made him known as one of the representative citizens of his community, and it is therefore with pleasure that we present the record of his life to our readers.

The Whitmores are of old Puritan ancestry and were among the early settlers of New England. Stephen Whitmore, the grandfather of our subject, was a farmer of Middletown, Connecticut. By his first marriage his children were Stephen and Mabel. For his second wife he married a Miss Clark, and to them was born a son, Daniel C. The grandfather was one

of the soldiers of the Revolutionary war and valiantly aided in the struggle for independence. He died at Middletown, Connecticut.

Daniel C. Whitmore, the father of our subject, was born at Middletown, and received such educational privileges as the common schools of that day afforded. At the age of twenty years he became a sailor and followed the sea for seven years, his trips being made mostly from Boston to the West Indies. He was married in Middletown, Connecticut, to Sarah Roberts, a native of the Charter Oak state, and a daughter of Comfort Roberts. Their children were: Lucy A., who was born in Middletown, April 6, 1830; John C., born also in Middletown; Stephen, born in Summit county, Ohio; and Albert and Mary E., who were natives of Charleston, Ohio. It was the year 1833 that witnessed the arrival of Daniel C. Whitmore and his family in Ohio. The year previous he visited this state in order to secure a location, and on the trip rode on the first railroad ever constructed in the United States. When he went with his family in 1833, however, the trip was made by wagon. He took up his abode in Summit county, Ohio, and resided at Silver Lake for one year, living with his father-in-law, Comfort Roberts, who had settled there some time before. His home was near Cuyahoga Falls, in Summit county, and there he lies buried. He was a well-known pioneer and a man of the highest respectability.

In 1834 Daniel C. Whitmore removed to Charleston, Portage county, Ohio, locating on a tract of land of one hundred acres in the midst of the forest. There he cleared a farm and made a good home, but in 1841 removed to Middlefield, Geauga county, where he purchased land, again becoming the owner of a heavily timbered tract. Cutting down the trees and grubbing up the stumps, he at length placed his land under a condition of cultivation and made a good home, which continued to be his place of abode until 1851, when he removed to Coshocton county, Ohio. A year later he went to Wood county, where he again purchased a farm in the midst of the forest. After living there some years he sold that property and cleared another farm in the same county. Subsequently he took up his abode in North Star township, Gratiot county, Michigan, and again purchased land in the woods. Clearing and improving a farm, he made his home thereon until his death, which occurred at the venerable age of eighty-two years. He was a man of very strong constitution. When a sailor he was twice shipwrecked and endured many hardships, and after becoming identified with farming interests he endured all the trials and difficulties experienced by pioneer settlers. He was never ill in his life until over fifty years of age, and after that endured but little sickness. His first wife died at Charleston, Ohio, in February, 1839. She was a worthy pioneer woman of many virtues and had a large circle of friends. In 1840 Mr. Whitmore was again married,

his second union being with Betsy E. Phillips. Their children were: Sarah, Emma, Daniel, Warren, Maria, Charles, Emerson and Helen. Mr. Whitmore was a typical pioneer, strong and vigorous, and at all times reliable and honest. In politics he was a Republican and in religious faith was a Baptist.

John C. Whitmore, whose name introduces this record, was born in Middletown, Connecticut, April 25, 1831, and was three years old when his parents removed to Ohio. At the age of ten he became a resident of Geauga county, that state, and in the public schools he acquired a limited education, for his attendance at school was necessarily cut short, as his services were needed in the development of the home farm. He attended school only three winters, but he studied at home as opportunity afforded and thus gained a practical English education. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, and throughout his entire life has followed that calling. He worked with his father until he had attained his majority, after which he was employed for four seasons as a farm hand in Summit and Geauga counties, Ohio. In 1854, at the age of twenty-four years, he came to Illinois, making the journey by railroad to Morris. He purchased eighty acres of land in Mazon township, one mile north of the village, paying five dollars per acre for the wild prairie. He had carefully saved the money which he had earned in Ohio and had four hundred dollars with which to purchase his farm. For a time he worked at farm labor in Livingston county and then returned to Grundy county, where he was employed for two years, after which he began the operation of his own land.

Mr. Whitmore has been twice married. On the 26th of August, 1859, in Mazon township, he wedded Emma Siterly, a widow whose maiden name was Underwood. She was born in Pomfret, Connecticut, a daughter of Lester and Hulda (Medbury) Underwood. The Underwoods and Medburys were both old colonial families. Lester Underwood was a farmer and carpenter, who in pioneer times removed to Illinois. He first located at Wheaton and afterward came to Grundy county, where he purchased a farm north of Mazon, becoming one of the substantial pioneer agriculturists of the community. He had but one child, Emma, who first married Silas Siterly, who died soon afterward. Mr. Underwood died in Ottawa, Illinois, in the prime of life.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore located in Mazon township, two miles north of the village, and there lived for one year. They then took up their abode upon a farm a mile and a quarter west of the village and afterward lived in Ottawa, where Mr. Whitmore engaged in teaming for eighteen months. He then returned to Mazon township and settled upon the farm, which he purchased of his father-in-law, Mr. Underwood. This was a

tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which up to that time had never been improved, but by hard work and untiring labor he developed a good property.

While living there his first wife died, on the 13th of March, 1877. She was born December 19, 1839, was a member of the Congregational church and a woman of many virtues. Their children were: Hattie E., born in Ottawa, November 19, 1862; and Harry C., born on the home farm, October 7, 1866. He served as a soldier in the Spanish-American war for the liberation of Cuba, enlisting as a private in May, 1898, in Indianola, Nebraska, becoming a member of Company L, Third Nebraska Regiment, under command of Colonel W. J. Bryan. He was in Camp Cuba Libre, at Jacksonville, Florida, and at Savannah, and sailed for Cuba, January 1, 1899, being stationed seventeen miles from Havana. He was promoted to the rank of corporal and quartermaster sergeant, and returned in good health May 13, 1899. Mr. Whitmore was again married, June 6, 1882, in Brookfield, New York, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Mary M. Moore, the widow of Frank O. Moore. She was born April 2, 1839, in North Brookfield, New York, and was a daughter of Joseph H. and Mary J. (Sweet) Blanding. Her father was born in Connecticut, September 22, 1803, obtained a common-school education and was a farmer. Tradition says that the Blandings were originally of French origin. The name was probably De Blandin and the ancestors lived in either the province of Alsace or Lorraine. They were Huguenots and had that firm integrity and inflexible adherence to their religious faith which marked the Protestants of that day. During the wars of Spain, France and the Netherlands in the sixteenth century—between 1545 and 1567—members of the Blanding family with thousands of others were exiled and driven from France. They found refuge in England and in 1640 we have a record of three brothers of the name, Ralph, William and John, whose family homestead was at Upton on the Severn in Worcestershire, England. Ralph remained unmarried and devoted his life to literature. John was in command of His Majesty's ship, Lion, of London, and William came to America, becoming the progenitor of the Blanding family in this country. It was about the year 1640 that he and his wife, Phebe, crossed the Atlantic from Upton on the Severn and settled in Boston. They became members of "The First Church of Boston" and several children were born to them. The father died June 15, 1662, and his widow was afterward licensed to keep an inn in the town. He was a member of the grand inquest of the colony from 1643 until 1648 and was deputy of the Plymouth courts from 1646 to 1651. His son, William Blanding, Jr., emigrated to Rehoboth, Massachusetts, about 1660 and was married to Bethia Wheaton, September 4, 1674. The numerous descendants of William

Blanding, of Boston, are now scattered all over the country. William, the second, left a sum of money to the town of Rehoboth, about 1675, to carry out an expedition against the Narraganset Indians, which fact was mentioned in the town records of May, 1680. William and Bethia (Wheaton) Blanding were the parents of seven children.

One of this number was also given the name of William and represented the family of the third generation. He was married in October, 1708, to Elizabeth Perry and they had seven children, including William Blanding, the fourth of the name. He was married on December 25, 1740, to Sarah Chaffee and by their union there were born seven children. One of their sons, Christopher, was a colonel in the civil war, but the line of descent came down through another William Blanding, who was of the fifth generation. He was married July 5, 1772, to Lydia Ormsbee and they were the parents of nine children. George Ebenezer, of the sixth generation, was married August 29, 1773, to Nancy Wheeler, by whom he had six children, and after her death was married March 5, 1788, to Elizabeth Ingalls, by whom he had seven children, namely: Nancy, who was born February 6, 1789; James, born in 1790; Franklin, born in April, 1791; Elizabeth, born April 8, 1793; Rachel, born April 30, 1795; William, born April 11, 1797, and Lois, born July 13, 1799. The Blandings have always been noted for their loyalty and patriotism and the family was represented by various members in the Revolutionary war, including Noah, Lamech and Daniel, grandsons of William Blanding of the third generation. Four sons of William Blanding of the fourth generation were also Revolutionary soldiers, namely: Ebenezer, William, Shubal and Christopher. There were also others, some of whom held official rank and the family was likewise represented in the war of 1812 and in the civil war.

Franklin Blanding, the representative of the family of the seventh generation, was the grandfather of our subject. He married Nancy Holbrook and was a shoemaker by trade. He removed to the Empire state, and for many years was a resident of East Hamilton, New York, where he died at the age of sixty-eight years. His children were: Joseph H., Franklin, William, Adolphus, Oscar, Freeman, Jefferson, Nancy, Eliza, Lucina, Amanda and Mary. The father of these children was a Universalist in his religious belief. He possessed a strong mind, a natural sense of justice, and was a man of strong convictions and independent character. In politics he was a Democrat.

Joseph H. Blanding, the father of Mrs. Whitmore, accompanied his father on the removal to New York. He was married in North Brookfield, that state, to Mary J. Sweet, a native of that town and a daughter of Samuel G. and Sally (Stetson) Sweet. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Blanding

took up their abode on a farm in North Brookfield. Their children were Mary M. and Marion J. After the death of his first wife Mr. Blanding was married, in North Brookfield, to Lucy M. Beebe, and their children all died in early life. In 1849 Joseph H. Blanding removed to Grundy county, Illinois, locating in Vienna township, where he engaged in farming for a year and a half. He then returned to the Empire state and was engaged in the cultivation and sale of hops. He became one of the substantial citizens of the community and made for himself a good home. He was a man of broad and liberal views and an honored and valued citizen. His political support was given the Democracy. He died in 1885, at the age of seventy-two years.

After his second marriage Mr. Whitmore continued upon the old homestead, living there with his second wife for seventeen years. He made substantial improvements upon the place, erected commodious and tasteful buildings, planted a good orchard and developed and improved one of the most desirable country homes in Grundy county. His wife was first married to Frank O. Moore, at New Berlin, Otsego county, New York, October 30, 1862. He was a farmer and owned a tract of land in Eaton, Madison county, New York, where he lived until failing health caused his removal to North Brookfield, where he died at the age of forty-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Moore were the parents of one daughter, Marian F. Frank O. Moore was previously married to Hattie Duncan, and there was one child by this marriage—Hattie E. Moore. In February, 1899, our subject and his wife left the farm and removed to Mazon, where he purchased a pleasant residence. They are now comfortably installed in their new home and are regarded as sterling citizens of the community. Their friends in the county are many, and their many excellent characteristics have gained for them the confidence and good will of all with whom they have come in contact. Mr. Whitmore's retirement from labor gave him a well merited rest, for through many long years he was actively connected with the agricultural affairs of the county and was an industrious and indefatigable worker. His well directed and honorable efforts brought to him a handsome competence that now supplies him with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

JAMES McCALL.

The business of mining seems to be a good developer of manhood and of men. There have been some shining examples of this, and in all of the coal fields of America there have been many, less conspicuous individually, but in the aggregate confirming this statement incontrovertibly. In nearly

every mining town in Illinois men have come to the front in public affairs. They have made their advent in the towns and earned their living and won the respect of their fellow citizens as wielders of the pick and shovel. Such a progressive miner is the gentleman whose name appears above.

James McCall, justice of the peace at Braceville, Illinois, and a well known citizen of Grundy county, was born in county Antrim, in the north of Ireland, July 8, 1838, a son of William and Alice (Lindsay) McCall. His parents never came to America, but lived and died in Ireland. His maternal grandmother, Agnes Loughen, came to America when she was ninety years of age, to spend her last days with her children, all of whom had come across the ocean except her daughter, Mrs. McCall. She died at the home of her son, Samuel Lindsay, at Cherry Valley, New York, at the great age of one hundred and eight years.

When the subject of this sketch was about fourteen years old, he went to Scotland and engaged in coal mining and continued in that occupation there until 1865. He married Mary English in 1863. In 1865, thinking to better his condition, he determined to come to America. He accordingly crossed the Atlantic to Nova Scotia, and for two years was steward on a vessel called the King of Tyre. His wife had remained in Scotland, and in 1867 he returned to that country. But in 1879 he came back, and went to Morris Run, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in his former business of coal mining. He removed thence to Coal Creek, Fountain county, Indiana, and from there in 1880 to Braceville, Grundy county, where he has since resided, and where for some years he was employed in the coal mines.

Mr. McCall has served as justice of the peace since 1896 and has discharged his duties with honor and credit. In his native country he belonged to the Conservative or Tory party in politics and since coming to America he has affiliated with the Democratic party, with which he has been in full accord. In all ways he commands the respect of his fellow citizens. He has shown himself industrious, honest, persevering and capable in business affairs. Every trust confided to him has been met so well and faithfully as to increase the esteem in which he has always been held by those who have known him and been familiar with his opportunities and the manner in which he has improved them.

Mr. and Mrs. McCall have seven children, two sons and five daughters; the eldest daughter, Jane, is the wife of George Gray. Alice is the wife of George Powers. Mamie is the wife of Lewis Ackerman. The other daughters are Lizzie and Agnes. The sons are named James and David McCall. Two other sons, William and Samuel, are dead. David McCall is a brakeman on the Northwestern Railroad. In a wreck of a freight train, caused by

the breaking of a wheel, sixteen cars telescoped, and David was thrown from the head car of the train over the top of a telegraph pole, and after this high flight and heavy fall, escaped with but few bruises. It was a marvelous escape, especially as he weighs one hundred and seventy-five pounds. Socially the McCalls are favorites wherever they are known. Of sterling character which inspires confidence, they possess a hearty geniality that is winning and exhibit a real sympathy for the troubles of others that has won them numerous friends.

GEORGE H. CRAGG.

Cause and effect find exemplification in the life of George H. Cragg, who owes his success to his own industry, enterprise and capable management. These qualities never fail to bring but one result. It is possible not to win prosperity when one of them is lacking, but the possessor of all these cannot fail to gain prosperity. It is in this manner that Mr. Cragg has become one of the successful agriculturists of Maine township, where he owns a valuable farm of one hundred and forty acres.

John Cragg, his father, was born in Cheshire, England, March 6, 1803, and when about twenty years of age crossed the Atlantic to New Jersey. In the mother country he had served a long apprenticeship in the machinist's trade and had become an expert workman, being able to handle all kinds of tools. He worked at his trade in New Jersey, thus becoming identified with the business life of the New World. In Bergen county, that state, he married Agnes Litchult, who was born January 7, 1813, in Bergen county, and was of Holland lineage, the family having been founded in New Jersey in early colonial days. For a number of years John Cragg followed his trade in that state, and on account of his health finally left the east, removing to Illinois in 1832. He took up his residence in Ottawa, but after a few months went to St. Louis, where he worked at his trade. Soon afterward he returned to Ottawa, where he was employed as a machinist until 1834, when he came to Grundy county, locating on a farm which is now the home of our subject, in Maine township, which was then a part of Braceville township. He entered the land from the government, securing three hundred and twenty acres, which he purchased at the land sale in Chicago for a dollar and a quarter per acre. He had then been settled on his land between one and two years. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made on the place, but with characteristic energy he began to develop the farm, cleared away the timber and placed the fields under a very high state of cultivation. In the first year of his arrival here he built a log cabin, which is

George H. Cragg

Mrs Rachel Cragg

still standing as one of the landmarks of pioneer days. It is the only log cabin built in that epoch which still remains to indicate the onward march of civilization. By thrift and industry Mr. Cragg secured a good home, becoming one of the prosperous farmers of his community. His children were Edward, who was born in New Jersey, September 13, 1830; Joseph, who was born May 31, 1833, in St. Louis; Martin, who was born on the pioneer homestead, January 21, 1836; Charles, born March 6, 1838; George H., born April 5, 1840; Frances L., born May 26, 1843; and John N., born January 11, 1853, on the old homestead. Mr. Cragg was an old-line Whig in his political affiliations and held the offices of township clerk, trustee, and justice of the peace. The first election of the township was held in his cabin and he was intimately associated with pioneer events which form the early history of the county. He died on the old family homestead, October 9, 1853, and his wife passed away in Gardner, Illinois, April 27, 1895. She was a member of the Methodist church and a lady greatly esteemed for her many excellencies of character.

George H. Cragg first opened his eyes to the light of day April 5, 1840, in the old log cabin built by his father in pioneer days. He received such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools of the neighborhood, and he also pursued his studies for a time in Mazon. His father, with a just appreciation of the need of an education, provided his children with the best opportunities he could afford and was accustomed to employ a teacher to instruct the children in his own home. Our subject also spent six months as a student at Wilmington, Illinois. He also learned habits of industry, perseverance and economy upon the home farm. His father died when George was thirteen years of age, and the following year he began earning his own livelihood as a farm hand. He inherited thirty-two acres of the old homestead and on that tract began farming on his own account. He was wedded February 17, 1861, in Chicago, to Rachel L. Bridel, who was born April 30, 1840, in England, a daughter of Robert and Mary (Diment) Bridel. To them have been born four children: Alice Mary, born October 14, 1862; Robert Nelson, born March 21, 1865, on the old homestead; Cora Belle, born in Morris, Illinois, October 20, 1867; and Emma Lilly, born October 12, 1870, on the old homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Cragg began their domestic life on the farm, where he remained until his enlistment in the civil war, February 25, 1865. He was enrolled at Joliet as a member of Company F, Fifty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and remained at the front until honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee, on the 18th of May of the same year, on account of disability. In April of that year he had been sent to the hospital, where he remained until his return to the north. Once more locating on a farm, he gave to it his time

and attention until 1866, when he embarked in the grocery and butchering business in Morris, Illinois, in company with Marshall Cassingham, under the firm name of Cassingham & Cragg. They enjoyed a good trade until 1867, when Mr. Cragg sold his interest and returned to the old homestead, where he has since carried on agricultural pursuits. He is to-day the owner of one hundred and forty acres of valuable land, on which he has erected a substantial residence and good outbuildings.

Mr. Cragg has given his political support to the Republican party since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He takes an active interest in the welfare and growth of the party and has served as a township trustee and as school-director, his labors being practical and effective in the promotion of the educational interests of the community. He is very systematic and enterprising in his farming operations, and his capable management and unflagging industry have brought to him very creditable and satisfactory success. Throughout his life he has been true to every manly principle, and his record is in many respects well worthy of emulation.

W. E. HOMAN.

W. E. Homan is one of the practical business men and respected citizens of Maine township, devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits and to the purchase and sale of grain. When we examine into the life history of successful men to determine the secret of their prosperity we find that it is not the outcome of genius or talent, but is the direct result of unflagging industry, guided by sound judgment and practical common sense. It is these qualities which have won Mr. Homan a place among the substantial residents of his community.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Union county, on the 11th of March, 1863, his parents being William and Martha (Hill) Homan. He represents an old family of Virginia. The great-grandparents were Joseph and Mary Homan, and the former carried on wagon-making in Rockingham county, Virginia. Emigrating westward, he became one of the pioneers of Muskingum county, Ohio, and in Nashport he followed his trade, supporting his family in that way. Subsequently he removed to Delaware county, Ohio, where he also conducted a wagon shop for some years. He was a substantial citizen whose well directed efforts gained for him a good property. He was much respected for his sterling worth, and died at the age of eighty years, esteemed by all who knew him. His children were Jonathan, William, Elizabeth and Lydia.

Joseph Homan, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1800, and was of German lineage. He learned the blacksmith's trade in the Old Dominion and was married there to Martha Miller, who also was a native of Rockingham county, born in 1805. The Millers were of Irish descent. About 1833 Joseph Homan, Jr., moved to Muskingum county, Ohio, and while en route witnessed the remarkable phenomenon of shooting stars which occurred that year. They made their journey westward with team and wagon, and one night took refuge in a school-house, in which place they saw the wonderful astronomical display. Locating in Nashport, Mr. Homan continued his residence there for about five years, after which he removed to Licking county, Ohio, where he lived for ten years. On the expiration of that period he took up his residence in Delaware county, Ohio, where he purchased the farm upon which he spent his remaining days. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and in politics was a Jacksonian Democrat. He held a number of township offices, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity, and in the community where he lived was recognized as a man of sterling worth. In his family were the following named: William; Richard; Elizabeth A.; John, who was born in Virginia; Walter; Benjamin, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio; Ira and Joseph, natives of Licking county, Ohio; and Allen, whose birth occurred in Delaware county, Ohio.

Mr. Homan, the father of our subject, first opened his eyes to the light of day in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1825, and was a lad of eight summers when the family removed to Muskingum county, Ohio, driving three two-horse teams hitched to huge covered wagons. He witnessed the falling stars before mentioned and never forgot the memorable sight, the heavens being ablaze with the light of these meteors. He received a common-school education and in early life learned the carpenter's trade. He was married in Delaware county, Ohio, to Miss Martha Hill, a daughter of Adam Hill. They began their domestic life in that county, where Mr. Homan worked at his trade for some time, after which he removed with his family to Union county, where also he followed carpentering. In 1869 he came to Illinois, locating in Grundy county, upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land. He continued the work of further developing and cultivating the fields, and lived upon that farm for many years. He was for four years a hardware merchant of Coal City, and spent a short time in Colorado on account of his health. After his return to Illinois he made preparations to remove to Kansas, and was engaged in merchandising in that state for one year. He then returned to the old home farm in Grundy county, upon which he spent his remaining days, his death occurring August 11, 1898. He exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and

measures of the Democracy, and by popular ballot was appointed to fill a number of township positions. He held to the religious faith of the family, being a member of the Presbyterian church. He was long recognized as a substantial farmer and respected citizen of Grundy county.

Mr. Homan of this review is the youngest of three children, the others being Joseph and Emma. He received the usual common-school advantages and was reared to farm life. Later he engaged in merchandising in Coal City, in connection with his father, and went with him to Kansas, where also they conducted a store for one year. Upon the return to Grundy county he resumed the work of the farm, and has since devoted his energies to the care and cultivation of its fields. His property is the old family homestead, a very valuable tract of land. He is also engaged in the grain business at Gorman, for Fuller & Keltner, having carried on operations along that line since 1898.

On the 24th of November, 1887, in Osborne, Kansas, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Homan and Miss Libbie De Puy, who was born in New York, December 29, 1867. Her grandfather, John De Puy, was born in Orange county, New York, and was descended from French Huguenot ancestry, who located in the Empire state in colonial days. He married Caroline Russell, who was of Scotch descent and whose mother belonged to the De Witt family. John De Puy was a wagon-maker by trade and followed that pursuit in order to support his family. For many years he resided in Accord, New York, and died in Newburg, that state, at the age of eighty-four years. He was a member of the Methodist church and lived a consistent, Christian life. His children were Ann, Edgar, Alexander, Nancy, Jane, Elizabeth, Jacob, William, Blendinah, John, Thomas, Russell and Abel. Five of the sons, Jacob, William, Thomas, John and Russell, served in the civil war, all being members of New York regiments. Jacob participated in the battle of Bull Run and both he and William were killed in the service. John De Puy, the father of Mrs. Homan, was born in Accord, New York, March 23, 1838, acquired a common-school education and learned the carpenter's trade. He is now a merchant and business man of considerable wealth. He removed to Kansas about 1875, locating in Glen Elder, where he was engaged in milling and general merchandising. He also dealt in real estate, with offices in Kansas City, and was the owner of a large farm which materially increased his income. He is now an active and enterprising business man of Perry county, Missouri. A man of strong force of character, of sound business judgment and incorruptible integrity, he well deserves the prosperity which has crowned his efforts. In his political affiliations he is a Republican.

He was married in Newburg, New York, April 15, 1859, to Eleanor

Polhamus, who was born in the Empire state and was a daughter of John Polhamus. Her father was of sturdy Holland Dutch ancestry and the family was established on American soil prior to the war of the Revolution. John Polhamus was born in New York city, became a sea captain and made many voyages. He had a brother who served in the United States navy during the war of 1812. His entire life was spent in New York and he died there, at the age of eighty-six years. His children were Eleanor and John, and the latter enlisted for service in a New York regiment during the civil war and was killed in battle. After his marriage John De Puy resided in Newburg, New York, where he engaged in carpentering and cabinet-making until the death of his first wife, in 1874. She was a member of the Methodist church and by her marriage became the mother of the following children: Blendinah, Elmer, Libbie, George, John and William. Mr. De Puy was again married, April 7, 1889, his second union being with Etta Moffet. The wedding took place at Glen Elder, and their children are Russell, Emma, Mary and William.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Homan has been blessed with five children, four of whom are now living, namely: Bertha A., William, Russell, Martha and Allen. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Homan located on the old homestead in Maine township, where they are still living. Their household is celebrated for its hospitality, which is enjoyed by their many friends. In politics Mr. Homan is independent, his last presidential vote being cast for William J. Bryan in 1896. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. A practical business man, he has carried on his labors along well defined lines and is known to be strictly honorable in all trade transactions. His sterling qualities have gained him high regard, and as a representative citizen of Grundy county he well deserves mention in this volume.

ABRAHAM STAMM.

In a history of the representative farmers of Greenfield township, Grundy county, Abraham Stamm certainly deserves creditable mention, as he belongs to the class of honored American citizens who owe their prosperity entirely to their own well directed and honorable efforts. He belongs to one of the old Pennsylvania Dutch families. His great-grandfather, Conrad Stamm, emigrated to the New World from Hesse-Cassel, Germany, in an early day, being accompanied by his wife and two children, Daniel and John. The wife, however, died ere the voyage was completed, and with his two sons Mr. Stamm continued on his way to Beaver county, Pennsylvania, where

he cleared a farm of two hundred acres in the midst of the forest, developing a good home there. In Germany he was connected with the Catholic church, but did not attend any church after arriving in America. He died in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, May 27, 1838, at the venerable age of eighty-one years, and was buried on his own homestead there. Our subject now has in his possession a rifle which belonged to Conrad Stamm. It was brought by him from Germany and is a well made fire-arm, with silver mountings, having been manufactured by Kramer, of Schmalkalden, Germany.

Daniel Stamm, the grandfather of our subject, was about sixteen years of age when he accompanied his father to the New World. He, too, became a farmer, and was married in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth Shearer, who was born in the Keystone state. After their marriage they located on the old homestead, which had been developed by his father, and there Daniel Stamm passed his remaining days, his death occurring at the age of sixty-one. He was a substantial farmer and owned and successfully operated two hundred acres of land. An industrious and hard-working man, his life was honorable and upright. He belonged to the Lutheran church and was respected by all who knew him. His children were: Conrad, Jacob, Daniel, Polly, Susan and Eliza.

Jacob Stamm, the father of him whose name introduces this review, was born on the old family homestead in Pennsylvania, in September, 1811. That property is still in the possession of descendants of the original American emigrants. Jacob Stamm received very limited educational privileges, and became an enterprising business man. He learned the tanner's trade, which he followed for a year and then turned his attention to other pursuits. In 1836 he wedded Susan Ziegler, the ceremony being performed in Beaver county, Pennsylvania. The lady, however, was born in Bucks county, that state, March 31, 1810, a daughter of Christopher and Susanna (Shelly) Ziegler. Her father was a cabinet-maker and farmer who owned a valuable tract of land in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Shelly. Subsequently he removed to Beaver county, when his daughter, Susanna, was six years old. He manufactured many coffins in those early days and was a well known citizen of Beaver county. When an old man he removed to Medina county, Ohio, to live with his son, Abraham. In religious belief he was a Mennonite and served as deacon of his church for many years. His death occurred in Medina county, when he had attained the very advanced age of nearly ninety-eight years. His children were: Andrew, Abraham, Henry, Catherine, Susanna, Elizabeth and Deborah, who died in childhood.

After his marriage Jacob Stamm located at Harmony, Butler county, Pennsylvania, where he lived for one year and then removed to Evans City,

twenty-seven miles north of Pittsburg, where his father had purchased two hundred and twelve acres of land, having also a tract of six hundred acres in Muddy Creek township, Butler county, and two hundred acres in Middlesex township, that county. This land he gave to his children, Jacob Stamm securing the tract of two hundred and twelve acres. Only a small portion had been cleared, the remainder having been covered with heavy timber. This land was purchased of Alexander Martin, who had entered it from the government. Clearing away the trees, Jacob Stamm developed a good farm, erected substantial buildings, and there spent his remaining days, his death occurring May 27, 1892, when he had attained the age of eighty years. He was a member of the German Reformed church and in politics was originally a Democrat, but in 1864 supported Abraham Lincoln and was afterward a stanch Republican. He was known as a substantial farmer and became the owner of a valuable property of three hundred acres. His wife is still living on the old homestead and is past ninety years of age. She is a member of the Mennonite church and a woman of many virtues, whose life has indeed been well spent. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stamm were: Abraham, Solomon, Jacob, Deborah, Keziah, Elizabeth, Mary and Susanna.

Abraham Stamm, whose name introduces this record, was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, on the old homestead, June 25, 1838. He received the usual common-school education and was reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1866, at the age of twenty-eight years, he came to Illinois and purchased 160 acres of unimproved prairie land in Good Farm township, of which he broke and fenced thirty acres. He never lived on the place, however, and on selling it he bought a quarter section south of Gardner. After a few years he also disposed of that property and purchased one hundred and sixty acres near where the school-house now stands on section 6. It was also a tract of undeveloped prairie, but his continuous work placed it under a high state of cultivation. It was to that farm that he took his bride, his marriage being celebrated in Grundy county, October 7, 1869, when Miss Ellen Halteman became his wife. She was born in Miami county, Ohio, April 5, 1845, and is a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Kitzmiller) Halteman. Her father was a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, who, having received the usual common-school training, turned his attention to farming. When a young man he accompanied his father to Miami county, Ohio, and there married Sarah, a daughter of Emanuel Kitzmiller. Their union was blessed with seven children, namely: David, Annie, Sarah, Ellen, Emma, Lucy and Caroline. Mr. Halteman removed to Illinois, and after residing in Lee county for some time spent a number of years in Perry county. About 1867 he came to Grundy county, where he

purchased one hundred and twenty acres of improved land, making his home, however, in Gardner. His last days were spent in Smith county, Kansas, where he died in 1898, at the age of eighty years. In politics he was a Republican and in religious belief was a Mennonite.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Stamm located on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he still owns. Some time afterward he purchased forty-nine acres where Abraham Bookwalter now lives, and resided there for six years, when he sold that property and removed to the Parker farm in Greenfield township. In 1892 he took up his abode upon his present farm in Greenfield township, and is to-day one of the extensive land-owners of the community, having four hundred acres of fine farming land, upon which he has made excellent improvements. He is regarded as one of the substantial and progressive farmers of his neighborhood, and he certainly deserves great credit for the success which he has achieved. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Stamm were born six children: Jacob, Charles, Pliny, Clifford (who died in infancy), Ida and Chloe. In 1897 the family were called upon to mourn the loss of the wife and mother, who died September 23, 1897. She was a lady of many virtues and was a consistent member of the Methodist church. Mr. Stamm also belongs to that church, in which he has served as a trustee and steward. He has managed his business interests with great care and precision, and at all times his methods have been characterized by the strictest integrity. His honesty is above question and his word is as good as his bond in the community where he is known.

BENJAMIN BOOKWALTER.

Benjamin Bookwalter is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Greenville township and is regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of Grundy county. He is of Pennsylvania Dutch lineage, his ancestors having been among the early settlers of Lancaster county. John Buchwalter was the grandfather of our subject, and since that time the orthography of the family name has been changed. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was a farmer by occupation, owning and cultivating one hundred and twenty acres of land. A man of sterling honesty and high moral character, he took great interest in religious matters and was a member of the Mennonite church. He served as the tax collector of his township for many years, and was highly respected for his genuine worth and marked ability. His children were Benjamin, Abraham, Mattie, Christina, Elizabeth and Hester.

Abraham Buchwalter, the father of our subject, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in February, 1794, twelve miles east of the city of Lancaster. He acquired the usual common-school education and added to his knowledge by his extensive reading in later years. He possessed an observing eye and retentive mind, and these qualities enabled him to gain an excellent fund of knowledge. He, too, was a farmer by occupation, making that pursuit his life work. In Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, he married Elizabeth Witwer, whose birth occurred in that county. Her father was Rev. Witwer, a minister of the Mennonite church and a highly respected man who for many years devoted his energies to the work of the gospel. His services were especially demanded on the occasion of funerals, and his marked sympathy and broad acquaintance made him particularly capable in delivering addresses on such occasions. He was one of the best known Mennonite ministers of his day, and was also a wealthy farmer of Lancaster county, owning an extensive and valuable tract of land. He died in his native county in middle life. His children were Isaac, David, Benjamin, Michael, Daniel (who became a physician), Elizabeth and Barbara.

After his marriage Abraham Buchwalter located on the old homestead farm near New Holland, where he lived for a number of years, removing to Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1843. There he purchased a farm of over four hundred acres, making his home thereon for about eight years, when he sold his property and bought three hundred acres of land, on which there was a flouring-mill. After three years spent on his property there he came to Illinois, in the spring of 1854, making the journey by rail. In the previous autumn he had started westward and had spent the winter of 1853-4 in Elkhart county, Indiana, whence he came to Grundy county in the spring. Here he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, including the quarter section upon which our subject now resides and a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Maine township. Forty acres of the land had been fenced and a small frame house had been erected, but otherwise there was no improvement upon the property. The country around was a wild and undeveloped prairie, on which wolves, deer, prairie chickens and quails were frequently killed. Mr. Buchwalter began improving his land, and his untiring industry enabled him to develop a good farm, upon which he spent his remaining days. He was one of the founders of the old Mennonite church in this vicinity and served as one of its deacons for many years. In politics he was an old-line Whig, but severed his allegiance with that party in order to aid in the organization of the Republican party in this locality. He became a substantial and well known citizen as the result of his industry and honest effort. All who knew him esteemed him for his high moral character and his genuine worth. In his family were the following

children: John, Mary, David, Samuel, Annie, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Michael, and one that died in infancy. All were born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and during the civil war David entered the country's service, remaining at the front for two years.

Benjamin Bookwalter, the subject of this review, was born July 31, 1831, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and has adopted the more modern method of spelling the family name. He acquired a good common-school education, and when about twelve years of age went with his parents by wagon to Mercer county, Pennsylvania. At the age of twenty-three he came to Illinois, arriving in Grundy county in April, 1854. He and his brother, Michael, drove two horses, hitched to a wagon, from Elkhart county, Indiana, spending four days upon the way. He worked for his father through the following year and in the succeeding year, when his father retired from active business, Benjamin and his brother Michael assumed the management of the home farm, which they conducted for five years. After the marriage of our subject the brothers dissolved partnership, each engaging in business for himself. Benjamin took the old homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and here he has since lived. He improved his farm, built a residence upon it and has made many other substantial improvements which add to the value and attractive appearance of the place. Through his own well-directed efforts and the capable assistance of his wife he has steadily prospered and is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres of fine farming land, all in one body. For many years he has been engaged in raising cattle and fine trotting horses, and has been the owner of some of the best horses in the state.

On the 31st of October, 1858, Mr. Bookwalter was united in marriage to Miss Susan Barkey, and their children are: Emma L., born August 3, 1860; Abraham L., born March 28, 1862; and two who died in infancy. The mother's birth occurred in Butler county, Pennsylvania, October 12, 1837, her parents being Enos and Eve (Ziegler) Barkey. Her father was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, October 20, 1815, and the mother was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, December 15, 1814. They were married in Beaver county, that state, about 1835. Mrs. Barkey was a daughter of Christopher and Susanah (Shelley) Ziegler, natives of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and representatives of good old Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Her father was for many years a deacon in the Mennonite church and was a most highly respected man. He lived to the advanced age of over ninety-eight years, and died in Mahoning county, Ohio. His children were Abraham, Andrew, Henry, Eve, Susan, Elizabeth, Catharine, and two who died in infancy.

Enos Barkey was the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Borneman)

Barkey. His father was a native of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and a representative of one of the old Pennsylvania Dutch families. Throughout his life he followed the profession of school-teaching. His children were Henry, Daniel, Enos, John, Mary and Kate. Enos Barkey obtained a common-school education and took up his abode in Butler county, Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Beaver county and later to Defiance county, Ohio. He worked at the shoemaker's trade in Independence, Ohio, for some years, and then removed to Elkhart county, Indiana, settling near the town of Elkhart, where he purchased eighty acres of timber land. There he built a home and made some improvements, but sold the farm and removed to Illinois in 1851.

He settled in Mazon township, Grundy county, where he purchased sixty acres of wild land, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but his industry soon wrought a great transformation in its appearance. As his financial resources increased he bought more land and engaged in the cattle business, driving his cattle from Indiana, where he purchased them very cheaply. He prospered in his undertaking and continuously added to his land until he owned about nine hundred acres, becoming one of the wealthy farmers and energetic stock dealers of Grundy county. Straightforward in all his dealings and honest to a fault, he was highly respected by all who knew him. Removing to Nebraska, he located in Gage county about twenty years ago, and there purchased fifteen hundred acres of land, to the improvement of which he devoted his energies until his death, which occurred when he was about seventy-eight years of age. He left to his children a good property and the more desirable heritage of an honest name. In his old age he was a member of the Church of God. His children were: Daniel, who was born August 9, 1836, and died in infancy; Susan, born October 12, 1837; Mary, October 24, 1839; Judith, May 12, 1843; Zeigler, July 30, 1844; John Henry, May 4, 1848; and Enos, November 1, 1852. Enos Barkey, the father of Mrs. Bookwalter, died January 15, 1895, and his wife passed away March 18, 1884. He was a stanch Republican in his political views, and an earnest advocate of the Union cause during the civil war. He had one son who joined the "boys in blue" and served throughout the war with an Illinois militia company, participating in a number of important engagements, but returned to his home in safety.

Benjamin Bookwalter is a man well known in Grundy county for his sterling honesty and upright character. Besides the property which he now owns he has given to his children one hundred and sixty acres of land. In politics he was an old-line Whig until the dissolution of the party, when he joined the Republican party and voted for John C. Fremont and Abraham

Lincoln. He is recognized as one of the substantial and valued citizens of his community and well deserves representation in this volume.

FREDERICK SECK.

The tales of battle have been a theme of song and story since the earliest ages, and the public ever yields its tribute of respect and admiration to the man who risks his life in defense of country or of principle. Mr. Seck is one of the honored veterans of the civil war who "wore the blue" and aided in the defense of the Union until the national government at Washington established its authority and the Confederates were overthrown. He was born in Baden, Germany, November 7, 1843, and is a son of Michael and Catherine (Boner) Seck. His father was also a native of Baden, where he owned and operated a sawmill. He had two brothers who served in the German army. In 1853 he started with his family for America, sailing from Havre, France, to New Orleans on the vessel Mercy, which reached the Crescent City after a voyage of forty-eight days. Two days later Mr. Seck died of cholera, and eight days after their arrival Mr. Boner, the maternal grandfather of our subject, also died of the same disease. Mrs. Seck, with her three children,—Lena, Frederick and Michael,—came to Ottawa, Illinois, and a few years later she married Lawrence Duttenhoffer, a farmer, whose birth occurred in Germany. After his arrival in Illinois he took up his abode in what is now Rutland township, LaSalle county, upon a farm of one hundred acres. There he and his wife spent their remaining days, the mother of our subject dying in 1892, at a very advanced age.

Frederick Seck was a lad of ten summers when he came with his parents to America. He had attended school in the Fatherland, where he had learned to read and write. As soon as his mother married he began work on his stepfather's farm and assisted in the cultivation and improvement of the place until after the inauguration of the civil war, when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted, in July, 1862, as a private in Company C, Eighty-eighth Illinois Infantry, or the Second Chicago Board of Trade Regiment, continuing at the front until honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee, in May, 1865. He participated in a number of important battles, including the engagements at Perryville, Kentucky, Stone River, Tennessee, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and the engagements of the famous Atlanta campaign. At the battle of Resaca he was shot in the forehead, his skull being fractured by the ball, and for some weeks thereafter he was forced to remain in the hospital. He rejoined his regiment at the battle of Kenesaw mountain, and was also in the engagements at Peach Tree creek and Jonesboro, after which his regiment joined General Thomas' command

and participated in the hard-fought battles of Franklin and Nashville. He was never taken prisoner and was always engaged in active service, with the exception of the few weeks spent in the hospital on account of his wounds. Loyally and cheerfully he performed his service for his country, following the old flag until it was planted in triumph in the capital of the southern Confederacy.

When the country no longer needed his service Mr. Seck returned to Illinois, where he resumed farming. He was married in Grundy county, October 10, 1866, to Miss Louisa Colwell, who was born November 22, 1847, in Chillicothe, Illinois, her parents being Elias and Annie (Starkey) Colwell. Her father was born in Kentucky and was a representative of one of the colonial families, his grandfather having been a soldier in the Revolutionary war. A native of England, he had come to America when this country was still numbered among the colonial possessions of Great Britain. Robert Colwell, the father of Elias, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was a pioneer of Kentucky. He married Esther Dornan, and their children were: Robert, Henry, John, Willie and Lucretia.

Leaving Kentucky, Robert Colwell became one of the early settlers of Peoria county, Illinois, where he owned a good farm which he obtained from the government. His son, Elias Colwell, was born in Kentucky, and throughout his life engaged in farming. In Hocking county, Ohio, he married Hannah Starkey, and their children were Melissa, Esther, Louisa, and several who died in childhood. Elias Colwell also came to Illinois and secured a wild tract of land in Peoria county, transforming it into a richly developed farm. Subsequently he removed to Grundy county, where he made his home for a few years, and for a short time he was a resident of Livingston county. He then returned to Peoria county and died at the home of our subject, on the 26th of October, 1891. He was twice married, his second union being with Mary Deffenbaugh, by whom he had one son, Samuel.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Seck took up their abode on a farm in LaSalle county, where they remained two years, and in 1868 they removed to Grundy county, settling in what is now Maine township. Their present farm was purchased in 1869, a tract of eighty acres, on which Mr. Seck has made good improvements, adding thereto all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm. His home has been blessed with six children: Lellie May, who was born in Grundy county, June 12, 1868; Frederick, who was born in Grundy county, September 7, 1869, and died October 27, 1889, at the age of twenty years; William H., who was born July 19, 1871; Minnie, born November 7, 1874; Louisa, born September 18, 1877; and Nathan, born June 29, 1879.

Mr. Seck is an honored and valued member of Sedgwick Post, No. 305, G. A. R., and is the present commander, having filled the office for two terms. He has also occupied other official positions therein. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has served on the school board nine years, during which time his labors and efforts have been very effective in promoting the cause of education. His thrift and energy are numbered among his most marked characteristics and have been the means of bringing to him a comfortable competence, so that he is now enabled to enjoy the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. As a citizen he is public-spirited and progressive, withholding his support from no measure which he believes will advance the general good.

CASSIUS C. EASTON.

Cassius C. Easton is one of the substantial citizens of Maine township and the representative of a highly respected family. He was born in Farmington, Trumbull county, Ohio, March 21, 1845, his parents being Alexander and Rhoda (Plum) Easton. His father was born in Massachusetts, September 25, 1801, and was a son of Joseph Easton, who was descended from colonial Puritan ancestry, the family having been founded in Massachusetts at a very early period in its history. His children were John, James, Luman, Justus, Joseph, Alexander, Tamar, and one who wedded a Mr. Strong. There was also another, but the name is now forgotten. Alexander Easton, the father of our subject, was reared in the old Bay state, received a good common-school education and early learned the trade of the carpenter and joiner. In his early years he became a local minister of the Methodist church and preached for a long period.

He was three times married,—first to Hannah Lee, of Farmington, Ohio, by whom he had six children: Tamar, born July 10, 1830; Harriet, October 30, 1832; Mack, April 20, 1835; Alcinous, July 25, 1837; Marion, September 9, 1840; and Cyrus M., October 23, 1842. All of these children were born in Farmington, Ohio, where the mother's death occurred December 7, 1843. Mr. Easton was again married about 1844, in Farmington, his second union being with Mrs. Rhoda Lee, the widowed daughter of Elisha Plum. Her father was a farmer and at an early day removed to Hillsdale, Michigan. By the second marriage of Mr. Easton there were but two children, Cassius C. and one who died in infancy. Their mother passed away in Farmington, Ohio, June 20, 1851, and Mr. Easton afterward married Eliza Hogan, of Brecksville, Ohio. He purchased land from the government at Farmington for a dollar and a quarter per acre and thus obtained one

C. C. Easton.

Mary F. Easton

hundred acres, which he cleared from the wilderness, making a good home. He was well known as a pioneer settler and minister, and served as a delegate to the national convention, held in Pittsburg, of the Free-soilers, who nominated John P. Hale and George W. Julian. He filled a number of local offices of trust and was a much respected citizen. In 1868 he came to Illinois to make his home with his son Cassius and died twelve years later, at the age of seventy-nine.

Cassius Clay Easton was reared in Farmington, Ohio. He received a good common-school education and at the age of sixteen years came to Illinois, having in the meantime learned the carpenter's trade of his father, who gave his set of tools to his son. Mr. Easton is especially successful in mechanical lines and has done much carpenter work in the neighborhood. Here he followed both carpentering and farming in early life. He was married September 27, 1866, in Mazon township, Grundy county, to Miss Mary Jane Spiller, who was born in Devonshire, England, May 19, 1849, a daughter of John and Joanna (Wakley) Spiller. Her father was born in Devonshire, England, November 28, 1808, obtained a good education, and during his boyhood followed farming. He was married in his native land to Joanna Wakley, whose birth occurred in Devonshire, England, and there they became the parents of eight children: Ann, who was born March 11, 1840; William, April 19, 1842; Joel, November 26, 1843; Thomas, February 20, 1845; Elizabeth, March 13, 1847; Mary J., May 19, 1849; John, February 7, 1851; and Ellen, July 24, 1853.

Mr. Spiller came with his family to America in 1851, sailing from Liverpool to New York, where they arrived after a voyage of nine weeks and three days. He continued his westward journey to Kendall county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm. For a year he was very ill and his wife had a hard struggle to provide for the family, her children being all small at that time. After his recovery Mr. Spiller took up his work with renewed energy, and about 1861 succeeded in gaining some land in Mazon township. This he improved and also extended its boundaries until it comprised one hundred and sixty acres. He had a good house and lot in Gardner, and successfully carried on agricultural pursuits, being known as one of the reliable, industrious and progressive farmers of the neighborhood. During the civil war he was a strong Union man and his son William and his son-in-law, James Livingston, both served for three years in an Illinois regiment in order to maintain the supremacy of the national government at Washington. From the time of the organization of the party Mr. Spiller was a stalwart Republican. He died at his home in Gardner, April 30, 1887, and his wife, who was a consistent member of the Methodist church, passed away February 3, 1893.

Mr. and Mrs. Easton resided for a year after their marriage in Greenfield township, Grundy county, and then in Kankakee county, where he purchased one hundred acres of partially improved land, on which was a small "shanty." Through the succeeding six years he devoted his energies to the cultivation of his farm and built a good residence there. He then removed to Gardner, where he worked at his trade for two years, and in March, 1876, he came to his present home in Maine township, where he secured a tract of land of one hundred and twenty acres and by additional purchase became the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He also erected a substantial two-story frame residence and added all the other accessories and conveniences of a model farm and now has a very valuable property. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land in Butler county, Kansas, which his son Addison is now occupying.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Easton have been born four children: Addison Monroe was born in Greenfield township, Grundy county, January 2, 1868, educated in the common schools and high school of Gardner, and is now engaged in teaching in this county. He married Emma C. Wessel and with their two children, Hazel W. and Wendel A., they reside in Kansas. Rowland Joseph, born in Norton township, Kankakee county, Illinois, October 4, 1871, married Winnie Small and is living on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Butler county, Kansas. Belle R. was born on the homestead, July 28, 1880; and Clifford C., June 14, 1885. They are still with their parents. Belle R. graduated at the district and high schools at Gardner, in 1898, and is a young lady of refinement.

In his political views Mr. Easton was a stalwart Republican for some years, and voted for Abraham Lincoln. He became one of the ardent Prohibitionists of his township, but in 1896 he cast his ballot for Bryan. He served on the school board for twelve years, acting as its secretary and president for a part of the time. He has always been a strong advocate of temperance principles, and is a man of high moral character, whose well-directed business efforts have brought him creditable success, for his reliable dealing has secured to him the unqualified regard of his fellow men.

ALBERT BABCOCK.

Albert Babcock, one of the veterans of the civil war and an honored pioneer of Grundy county, has been a resident of this section of the state for more than half a century and is familiar with its history from the days when its wilds were traversed by deer and prairie chickens, and when the greater part of the land had not yet been reclaimed for the purposes of cultivation.

R. J. Easton

A. M. Easton

Belle R. Easton.

Clifford A. Easton.

The Babcocks are of sterling English descent, their ancestors being among the Puritans who came to the New World in colonial days. Seven brothers of the name sought homes in America and were among the earliest settlers of Stonington, Connecticut. Johnson Babcock, the great-grandfather of our subject, became one of the pioneers of the Empire state, and his son Johnson, the grandfather, was a farmer of Rensselaer county, New York, where he died between the years of 1820 and 1826. His wife bore the maiden name of Zilpha Green, and was a representative of the old colonial family of Greens that figured so conspicuously in connection with the colonial and Revolutionary history of this country. To this family belonged Nathaniel Greene, the famous American patriot and general in the war for independence. Unto Johnson and Zilpha (Green) Babcock were born eleven children, namely: Johnson, Hiram, Linas, Darias, George, Ransom, Ira, Matilda, Louisa, Fannie and one whose name is forgotten.

Johnson Babcock, the father of our subject, was born August 12, 1800, in Rensselaer county, New York, acquired a good education in the schools of his native state and became a farmer. He was married October 29, 1826, in his native county, to Dorcas Messinger, a daughter of Daniel and Mary Messinger. The Messinger family are of Welsh origin. Daniel Messinger was born in 1769 and died November 13, 1838, in the Empire state, while his wife passed away February 14, 1828, at the age of forty-eight years. The names of their children now remembered are Dorcas, Lewis and Betsy.

After his marriage Johnson Babcock, the father of our subject, took up his abode in New York, where he remained until 1831, when he emigrated to Ohio, locating in Cuyahoga county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timber land. Clearing away the trees he placed the fields under cultivation and made a good pioneer home, but, selling his farm, he came to Illinois in the spring of 1846, renting land in the vicinity of Aurora for three years. In 1848 he purchased the farm upon which our subject now resides, and took up his abode thereon in April, 1849, residing there until his death. This tract comprised three hundred and twenty acres of wild prairie, which he bought of Stephen Davenport. When he settled on the land there were no buildings, and his first home was a log cabin, which he replaced by his present residence in 1854. As his land was broken and planted, good harvests rewarded his labors and he thus became the owner of an excellent farm. He was a well-known pioneer, much respected by all who knew him, and in early days his house became the home of land-seekers who sought locations on this western prairie. Being well acquainted with the country for miles around, he was often employed to locate land for others. The township had not been laid out at the time when he established his home here, his house being the second one built in Braceville township, in that

portion which is now Maine township. Cattle drovers also visited his home when on their way from Bloomington to Chicago, for he resided near the line of the old state road.

In the work of public improvement and progress he took an active interest. He was the first justice of the peace in his township, and for many years held that office. He assisted in the organization of the township, the first meeting for the purpose being held at the home of John Cragg, which stood on the west bank of the river, where Milton Butler now resides. Later Mr. Babcock served as the supervisor of the township for some years, was also the township clerk and held other offices, discharging his duty with marked promptness and fidelity. For a number of years he was the township treasurer, and the cause of education found in him a warm friend. His fellow townsmen placed great confidence in him, and he was universally respected by the pioneer settlers. In politics he was originally a Democrat, but became a Republican on the foundation of that party and voted for John C. Fremont. During the civil war he was a stanch advocate of the Union cause. His life was characterized by unflagging industry, and by his straightforward dealing he commanded the confidence of all with whom he came in contact. He died in April, 1886, at the age of eighty-seven years.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Babcock were as follows: Lucy, who was born in Rensselaer county, New York, July 13, 1827; Martin R., May 22, 1828; John, July 20, 1829; Lewis, December 3, 1830; Hiram, April 17, 1833; Henry F., November 17, 1834; Mary L., August 25, 1836; Frederick J., October 29, 1837; Albert, June 6, 1839; Henry, December 17, 1841; Eleanor, August 26, 1843; and Ralph, April 30, 1845. The first five children were born in Rensselaer county, New York, and the others in Cayuga county, that state.

Three of the sons were soldiers in the civil war, namely: Frederick J., Albert and Ralph. Two of the sons-in-law, Dennis Harding and William Spiller, were also numbered among the "boys in blue." Frederick J. enlisted for one year at Morris, Illinois, in August, 1864, as a member of Company G, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and served for eleven months, when, the war having ended, he returned to his home in safety. Ralph, a private of Company E, Thirty-ninth Illinois Infantry, enlisted at Wilmington, Will county, Illinois, for three years, and served until killed in battle in front of Richmond, a ball piercing his head, causing instant death. Previous to this time he had participated in a number of battles. Dennis Harding enlisted in 1862 as a private in the Eighth Missouri Infantry for three years, and was honorably discharged in 1865 on account of wounds received in battle. He participated in several of the leading engagements, and on one occasion was shot through the hips. William Spiller enlisted at Morris, Illinois, in

August, 1862, as a private in Company C, Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry, to serve for three years, and he remained at the front until the expiration of his term, when he was honorably discharged. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and the engagement at Blakely, Alabama, being in the last charge there, which was the last battle of the civil war. In this desperate charge seventeen of his company were either killed or wounded in ten minutes!

Albert Babcock, whose name introduces this review, was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, June 6, 1839, and was seven years of age when he came with his parents to Illinois. When a lad of ten years his father settled on a farm in what is now Maine township. The work of civilization had but recently been begun and there were no schools in the neighborhood, so that Mr. Babcock's educational privileges were quite limited. His father, however, employed a teacher, so that his children were instructed in their own home. For a short time Albert Babcock attended the first district school in Rensselaer township, but experience, reading and observation have made him a well-informed and capable man. His memory serves to recall many interesting incidents of pioneer life. He can well remember the prairie scenes when the country for miles around was covered with grass, dotted here and there with bright flowers. He saw in the neighborhood the old Chief Shabbona, together with his wife and other members of the tribe, for they frequently passed through this section of the country on their way to their hunting grounds. The country and woods abounded in game, and Mazon creek with fish. Mr. Babcock has seen as many as seventy deer in a herd; wild turkeys, prairie chickens and quails were very abundant; wolves and wild-cats were often seen in the timber; and otter were found on the banks of Mazon creek. The settlers lived in log cabins, crudely furnished, and worked hard in order to establish homes; but genuine hospitality reigned supreme and many pleasures were then enjoyed that are unknown at the present day.

When a young man of twenty-three years Mr. Babcock enlisted at Morris, Illinois, on the 7th of August, 1862, becoming a private in Company C, Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry, to serve for three years, or during the war. On the expiration of his term he was honorably discharged at Galveston, Texas, on the 22d of July, 1865, and was mustered out at Chicago a month later. His duty called him to Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, and in the course of the three years he marched several thousand miles. He participated in many skirmishes, especially in Tennessee, was in the siege of Vicksburg for thirty-nine days and was present at its surrender, on the 4th of July, 1863. At the siege of Vicksburg he was taken ill and remained in the hospital for a week,

after which he returned home, where he continued for fifteen months. When he had sufficiently recovered he returned to the army and joined his regiment at New Orleans in January, 1865. He also participated in the charge on the rebel earthworks that brought on a hand-to-hand fight, which resulted in the capture of the fort at Blakely, Alabama, and was the last battle of the civil war. His company carried the flag, and therefore received the hardest fire, seventeen men being killed and wounded within a few moments. Mr. Babcock was struck by a ball in a joint of his left foot. He served until the close of the war, when he returned to the farm in Braceville township.

On the 6th of June, 1867, in Braceville township, Mr. Babcock was married to Elmira S. Stallman, who was born November 14, 1844, in Licking county, Ohio, a daughter of Augustus C. and Lydia (Huffman) Stallman. Her father was born in Germany and was a son of Henry L. and Sophia D. (Püm) Stallman. The rest of the children of Henry L. Stallman were born in this country. Henry Louis Stallman, the grandfather of Mrs. Babcock, was born in Germany, July 29, 1791, and married Sophia Püm, also a native of that country. Mr. Stallman was a participant in the famous battle of Waterloo, as a private under Prince William of Brunswick. He emigrated to America about 1834, and died July 27, 1870, in Delaware county, Ohio, nearly eighty years of age, a member of the United Brethren church, and his wife died July 22, 1873, aged nearly seventy-nine years. Their children were: Louisa, who married Jesse Holmes, and died February 13, 1880, at the age of about fifty-six years; Ricca, who married Benjamin Wollom, and died December 6, 1856, aged about twenty-nine years; Rebecca, who married Orrin Powers, and died in 1892, aged nearly fifty-eight years; Wilhelmina, who married Gideon Houser and died in 1863; Augustus C., the father of Mrs. Babcock; and Henry L. and Maria, twins. Henry L. Stallman, the son of Henry L., Sr., was a soldier in the civil war, as a private in Company H. of the Forty-fifth Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, enlisting under the first call, for three months, and re-enlisting for three years, and served to the close of the war, participating in many battles.

Augustus C. Stallman obtained a good common-school education, and in his later life was able to speak in several languages which he learned by carrying on business with people of different nationalities. In his youth he learned the shoemaker's trade and conducted a shop in Etna, Licking county, Ohio, for a time. Subsequently he engaged in merchandising, conducting a dry-goods and merchant tailoring establishment in Coshocton, Ohio, where he met with good success in his undertakings. His last years were spent in Columbus, Ohio, where he died in 1897. His wife, Lydia (Huffman) Stallman, was of Dutch lineage. In early life she was left an orphan and

was reared by Abraham Winters, a farmer of Licking county, Ohio. She had two brothers, Jacob and John, and a sister, Ann. Unto Augustus C. and Lydia (Huffman) Stallman, in Licking county, Ohio, were born the following children: Elmira S., born in Etna, November 14, 1844; Leah, born in Etna; John J. and Lyman E., twins; and Lewis H., who was a soldier in the civil war, who served as a private in Company L, Second Ohio Infantry, and was mustered into the United States service February 9, 1864, for three years. His death occurred, however, on the 16th of August, the same year, in Charleston, Tennessee. Mrs. Stallman, who was a member of the United Brethren church and a lady of many virtues, died in Etna, Ohio, and Mr. Stallman was afterward married there to Miss Nancy Neff. Their children were Charles, William, Nettie, Frank, Kate and Jesse. The father of these children was a member of the Methodist church. He served as provost marshal at Columbus, Ohio, during the civil war, and was an energetic and successful business man, respected by all who knew him.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Babcock located upon their present farm in Maine township, Grundy county, where he owns one hundred and four and a half acres of land. Their children were Jesse, who was born on the farm November 13, 1869, and died in infancy; Minnie E., born January 1, 1871; and Orrin E., born March 26, 1873.

In his political views Mr. Babcock is a stanch Republican, having supported that party since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He served as a member of the school board for three years, was the overseer of highways for several terms, and for two years has been a justice of the peace, being the present incumbent. Socially he is an honored member of Sedgwick Post, G. A. R., of Gardner, in which he has held the office of chaplain, and of which he is now the junior vice commander. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity of Mazon, and is a representative pioneer citizen of Grundy county, who loyally served as a patriot during the civil war, and has at all times been as true to his duty to the country as when he followed the starry banner upon the southern battle-fields. In his business he has prospered and has ever commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow men because of his well-spent and honorable life.

HENRY B. SUTTON.

On the list of the leading and practical farmers of Braceville township is found the name of Henry B. Sutton, who was born May 15, 1828, in Sussex county, New Jersey, and is of French and English lineage. His parents were Nathan and Martha (Beardslee) Sutton. The father was born in New

Jersey and was a son of a Revolutionary soldier, whose children were Lewis, Mark, Nathan and Polly. Nathan Sutton was a farmer and stock-buyer, and removed from New Jersey to Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1835. In 1859 he became a resident of Gardner, Grundy county, Illinois, living a retired life. He was married in New Jersey, November 12, 1812, to Martha Beardslee, whose birth occurred in Sussex county, New Jersey, October 6, 1795. Their children were: Susan M., born November 8, 1813; John B., January 13, 1816; Edward L., March 12, 1818; Phoebe Ann, March 6, 1820; Nathaniel K., March 8, 1822; Sybil C., April 20, 1824; Martha J., March 1, 1826; Henry B., May 15, 1828; Mark T., June 6, 1830; Margaret F., August 14, 1832; Albert D., July 4, 1836; William A., November 6, 1838; and Huldah, May 13, 1841. The father was an industrious, enterprising man whose attention was given almost exclusively to his business affairs, and his honesty in all trade transactions won him high regard. He was born April 12, 1789, and died in Grundy county, March 30, 1879, when nearly ninety years of age. His wife passed away in Gardner, May 4, 1883, when about eighty-eight years of age. Both were members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Sutton gave his political support to the Democracy.

Henry B. Sutton, whose name introduces this record, obtained a limited education in the district schools of Pennsylvania, to which state he removed with his parents during his early boyhood. When quite young he began work on a farm, and throughout his entire life he has been connected with agricultural pursuits. He was married October 26, 1856, in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, to Catherine A. Campbell, who was born January 9, 1832, in Orange county, New York, a daughter of Jacob and Sophia (Wheeler) Campbell. Her father was of Scotch descent, and was born May 28, 1802, in New York. On the maternal side he was of Dutch lineage. After receiving meager education he learned the blacksmith's trade, and for many years he followed that pursuit. His death occurred in Orange county, New York, November 11, 1870. He was twice married, his first union being with Sophia Wheeler, by whom he had the following children: John A., who was born November 9, 1827; Sarah E., January 8, 1830; Catherine A., January 9, 1832; Theodore W., November 13, 1836; and Lewis W., March 11, 1839. The mother died May 11, 1854, and the father afterward wedded Maria Wheeler. His political support was given the Democracy, and in religious belief he was a Presbyterian.

Mr. Sutton, whose name introduces this record, took up his abode upon rented land in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, at the time of his marriage, but in December, 1862, he came to Grundy county, Illinois, renting a farm in Greenville township for two years. In 1868 he purchased his present farm, becoming the owner of eighty acres, which he has placed under

a good state of cultivation, the well tilled fields yielding to him an excellent tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon them. He and his wife have also reared excellent children, who do credit to their name: Susan M., who was born December 1, 1858; Martha G., born November 5, 1860, died May 23, 1873; Huldah, born January 7, 1863, married William D. Howland, a farmer of Grundy county, and they had one child, Harry; the mother died August 17, 1886, and Mr. Howland afterward wedded her sister, Susan M., by whom he has two children,—Ernest and Erma. Mary S., the next of the Sutton family, was born March 18, 1864. Sarah M. was born April 24, 1866, formerly lived with Mrs. Alexander Cameron for eight years, and by whom she was greatly trusted, having almost the entire charge of the business interests of Mrs. Cameron. John A., born March 31, 1868, married Eva Foster, and is an enterprising farmer of Kankakee county, Illinois. They have five children: Lester, Elsie, Roy, Veda and Henry.

Mr. Sutton gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party, and is well informed on the issues of the day. He has never been an aspirant for office, however, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs, in which he has met with creditable success. He follows very progressive methods in managing his farm and is one of Braceville township's progressive agriculturists, well deserving of representation in this volume.

C. W. BURROUGHS.

One of the large land-owners and prosperous business men of Grundy county, C. W. Burroughs, comes from sterling Irish and German stock, his paternal grandfather, John Burroughs, having been a native of the Emerald Isle, while his maternal grandfather, Captain J. B. Shurman, was born in Germany. The former was a farmer by occupation, both in his native land and in Washington county, New York, where he located after coming to America, residing there until his death. The seafaring life which the worthy German captain led came to a sudden and extremely unpleasant end, the story being as follows: He was the captain of a ship which plied between his native land and the United States, and on one of these voyages the vessel was sunk in a terrible storm. Only six persons, including the gallant captain, were saved, and they drifted on the ocean for six days, without food or anything to drink. When just on the verge of starvation one of the men, as a last resort, drew cuts to determine which of them should be killed in order to furnish food for the others! Fate showed the captain favor in this dreadful ordeal, and he was saved, but, needless to say, he had no further desire to follow the seas, and he was glad to settle quietly upon a farm in the Empire

state. From that time until his death he carried on agricultural pursuits in the vicinity of Eagle Ridge, New York.

John Burroughs, father of our subject, was reared on a farm in the Empire state, and early embarked in farming and dealing in live stock. He was remarkably successful, accumulating what was then considered a great fortune, but in 1850 he was so unfortunate as to lose sixty thousand dollars, through a forgery, and was thus left penniless. Two years later he bravely determined to try to establish himself again in business, and this time in the west; so he removed to Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois. He continued to manage a farm there for a few years, but death put an end to his ambitious labors and plans, both he and his wife dying in 1860. He had married Sarah Shurman in New York state, and they had children.

C. W. Burroughs was born in Marshall county, New York, March 21, 1836. With his father he removed to the west, and it was not until 1865 that he came to Grundy county. Here he bought and located upon a part of his present farm in Norman township, and, in addition to raising a large variety of crops, he has made a specialty of feeding live stock. In these lines of business he has met with something of the success which his father formerly achieved, and by judicious investments he has further increased his wealth. He now owns seven hundred and eighty-one acres of finely improved land, and has other valuable investments.

In 1867 Mr. Burroughs married Mary E. McMurry, a daughter of Robert and Zada McMurry, natives of New York state. Their eldest child, Nellie M., is the wife of L. W. Claypool, and resides in Chicago. Dr. W. M. Burroughs, the only son, is engaged in the practice of his profession in Chicago, where he has built up a large practice. Della, the second daughter of our subject, is the wife of J. H. Whitman, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Lillie, unmarried, now makes her home in Chicago.

NELS L. NESS.

Grand old Norway has contributed many of the best citizens that America, and particularly Illinois and the great northwest, can boast. Almost without exception, the sons of that far-away land, upon their arrival in the United States, enroll themselves under the banner of the stars and stripes and loyally support the laws and institutions of this country, both in peace and in war. And it is a fact too well known to need pointing out, that there are no more honest, industrious and universally upright citizens, both in their native land and in the land of their adoption, than the strong, sturdy sons of Norway.

The father of our subject, Lars Ness, was a farmer in Norway, and there married Martha Ness. They had five children, of whom only one, the eldest, John L., still makes his home in the land of his birth. Anna, the only daughter, is the wife of John Felow, of Nettle Creek township, and the two youngest members of the family, Oliver and Ole, are deceased. In 1865 Lars Ness and wife came to America, and thenceforth made their home with their son, Nels L. The mother departed this life in March, 1890, and the father died in September, 1892.

The birth of Nels L. Ness occurred in Norway, July 25, 1833, and his education was such as the common schools afforded. He began to be of material assistance to his parents in the care of the farm when he was a mere child, and from that time until he was eighteen years of age he remained at home. The attractions of a sea life had always appealed to him, and at length he could no longer resist his inclination. Shipping aboard a vessel engaged in trade along the coasts of Norway, he continued to follow the calling of a sailor for fifteen years, during which time he became thoroughly familiar with the ports of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, and all of the seas, bays and fiords of that celebrated region. In 1862 he crossed the Atlantic ocean, with a view to taking up his permanent residence here. Liking the country, he stayed, and for about two years worked for farmers in Nettle Creek township. Then, for the ensuing eight years, he rented a farm, at the end of which period he had accumulated sufficient money to permit of his purchasing a homestead. This place, of which he became the owner in 1872, comprises one hundred and sixty acres, is situated in Nettle Creek township, and has been his home ever since.

In all of his struggles to gain a livelihood and competence Mr. Ness has been aided by his estimable wife, whose fortunes were united with his in 1861. She formerly bore the name of Rachel Onvek, her parents being Jim and Mary Onvek, all natives of Norway. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Ness has been blessed with six children, named as follows: Ole, Jim, Lars, Nels, Mary and Oliver. Ole married Jane Thompson, who is deceased; Jim wedded Susie Hanson, and lives in Iowa; Mary, the wife of Hans S. Hanson, also is a resident of Iowa; Lars chose Leverine Hanson for his wife, and their home is near Lisbon, Illinois; and Nels, who wedded Carrie Nelson, dwells in the same locality. The father is a Republican in politics, and religiously he is a member of the Lutheran church.

Oliver N. Ness, the youngest child of our subject, was born on this farm, on the 22d of December, 1876. He received a good education in the public schools of this neighborhood, and under his father's instruction mastered the details of agriculture. He has always resided upon the home farm, and is a practical business man. In 1896 he married Julia Gunder-

son, a daughter of Gunner and Stena (Burson) Gunderson, natives of Norway. The father is still living in this county, but the mother is deceased. One child, a little daughter, Ruth, was born to the young couple on the 24th of July, 1898.

HARRY E. SNYDER.

The pioneer in business is as interesting a character as the pioneer in agriculture. There are many pioneer farmers to each pioneer man of affairs, and the business man often supplies advice to other classes of men which makes him an invaluable member of the community; and the sons of such pioneers who are able to take up the burden of enterprises raised to the plane of success represent the best business brain of this age of advancement.

Harry E. Snyder, a grain merchant at Gardner, Grundy county, represents one of the oldest business interests of that town, he being the successor to his father, Chester K. Snyder, in the business which the latter had established in 1875. Among the representative men of Gardner and of Grundy county who have passed away Chester K. Snyder was conspicuous. His residence at Gardner dated from 1854, the year the town was laid out and the Chicago and Alton Railroad was constructed to that point. He was therefore a pioneer of the town and no man was more closely identified with early and later business interests than he.

Chester K. Snyder was born in Wayne county, New York, April 23, 1832. His parents were natives of the Empire state. His father, Amos Snyder, was born in 1801, and his death occurred in 1875. His mother, whose maiden name was Sally Enos, was born in 1806 and passed away in 1873. Amos Snyder was a prominent man in the community in which he lived, and at one time was the county judge of Wayne county. Chester K. Snyder, the fifth in a family of six children, was educated in the public schools of his native place and at the age of nineteen years learned the business of telegraphy, and for a period of three years, immediately preceding his coming to Illinois, was telegraph operator in his native state, and also for a time in Canada and Kentucky.

Soon after his arrival in Gardner, in 1854, Mr. Snyder became the first railroad agent here and he was also the agent at Dwight and Williamsville. In 1857 he engaged in the lumber and grain business at Williamsville, but in 1861 returned to Gardner and took up the cultivation of a farm that he had previously purchased. He continued farming and railroading until 1875, when he engaged in the grain and lumber business at Gardner. He carried on this enterprise until he retired from active life in 1887. He died in April, 1891.

Mr. Snyder was a successful business man and in all respects a most useful citizen, patriotic and public-spirited to an unusual degree and generously helpful to all worthy local interests. He was married November 17, 1857, to Polly J. Holland, who was born in Cayuga county, New York, in May, 1836, and is still living.

Harry E. Snyder, son of Chester K. and Polly J. (Holland) Snyder, and his father's successor in business, was born on his father's farm near Gardner, September 15, 1861. He was educated in the public schools at Gardner and at a business college at Chicago, Illinois. He engaged in business with his father, in 1882, under the firm name of C. K. Snyder & Son. In 1887, upon the retirement of Chester K. Snyder from the business, his interests were purchased by Harry E. Snyder and Henry Leach. Harry E. Snyder became sole proprietor in 1897. Mr. Snyder married Miss Laura Leese, and they have two children, named Ira and Ione.

There is no movement tending to the improvement of public interest that does not receive Mr. Snyder's prompt and earnest indorsement and helpful assistance, for he has inherited somewhat of his father's public spirit along with the business ability, which has not only insured his own advancement but also contributed to that of the community at large.

JOHN S. WATSON, M. D.

The influence in any community of the reputable and conscientious family physician is not an uncertain or a circumscribed one. The family doctor has more intimate relations with the people than any one else, not excepting even the clergyman. Among the well-known physicians and surgeons of Grundy county and of a large part of Illinois is Dr. John S. Watson, of Minooka.

Doctor Watson was born at Ottawa, in the province of Ontario, Canada, in 1845. He grew to manhood in his native place and received a liberal literary education at McGill University, at Montreal. In 1865 he came to Chicago with his parents, and there the latter passed the rest of their lives. Dr. Watson is one of six children, comprising three brothers and three sisters. Southwell Watson, the oldest of the brothers, is a resident of Atlantic, Iowa. Joseph T. is a resident of Chicago, as are the three sisters,—Helen, Lydia and Fanny. For some time previous to the great Chicago fire Dr. Watson was engaged in the drug business in that city, partly as a preparation for his medical education, and was a victim of that destructive conflagration. The first course of medical lectures which he attended was at Rush

Medical College, which was followed by two more courses at Bennett College, at which institution he was graduated in the class of 1875.

He began the practice of his profession in Chicago, but soon afterward located at Minooka and has for twenty-five years been the leading physician in that part of Grundy county and adjoining sections of bordering counties. His rides have covered a radius of many miles with Minooka as a center. His professional career has been a remarkably successful one and he occupies a place in the front rank of the physicians and surgeons of Illinois. In connection with his practice he manages a fine drug store at Minooka.

Dr. Watson was married in Chicago, Illinois, in 1867, to Miss Anna Bell, of that city. They are the parents of five daughters, all of whom have been given excellent opportunities for culture and are accomplished ladies of many graces and the most substantial intellectual equipment. The eldest two, Franc and Lottie B., are graduates of the Northwestern University, and Lorine is a graduate of the school of oratory which is connected with the above mentioned institution. Mildred, the fourth in order of birth, is now a student of the university. Ethel, the youngest, is a pupil of the Minooka public school.

Besides being a prominent physician, Dr. Watson is a successful business man, and is numbered with the substantial citizens of the county in a financial way. He is the owner of valuable town property and several fine farms. As a citizen he is helpful and enterprising, and personally as well as professionally is held in high esteem. He was made a Mason many years ago and is well advanced in the order.

GEORGE HEROLD.

George Herold is one of the substantial citizens of Mazon township and is a highly respected man. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, in the village of Ansbach, near Lerberg, April 28, 1823, his parents being Leonard and Amelia (Behaker) Herold. His father was a native of Bavaria, where the family had lived for many generations, as had his wife's people. He was a butcher by trade and his father-in-law followed the same pursuit, as did the grandfather of Mrs. Herold, it being the family trade of the Behakers. Leonard Herold was the owner of some property, including a small farm. He had two brothers who served in the war with Napoleon. He was a hard-working, industrious man, respected for his sterling worth. He was a member of the Lutheran church. His death occurred in Bavaria, when he was about seventy-five years of age. His children were Leonard,

Michael, John, George, Magdalene, Barbara and Margaret. Of this family George was the only one who came to America.

George Herold, the subject of this sketch, acquired his education in the common schools and remained on his father's farm until thirteen years of age. When young he learned the butcher's trade and worked with his father until eighteen years of age, after which he worked for a Mr. Weber in his native city. On attaining his majority he began working at the butchering business in various Bavarian cities, including Wurtzberg, Kissingen and Schweinfurt. Subsequently he returned to his old home for a short time and then came to America, when about thirty-one years of age, leaving Bremen in June, 1854, on the sailing vessel, Crown Prince, which, after a voyage of forty-nine days, dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. The passage was a stormy one, the ship being blown so far out of her course to the north that they saw icebergs and were almost caught in the ice. However, they reached the port of New York in August, 1854.

Mr. Herold worked in a butcher shop in that city until March, 1855, when he made his way to Chicago, where he was employed in a similar capacity until 1857. In the fall of that year he made his way to Aurora, Illinois, where he formed a partnership and engaged in the butchering business. In the spring of 1858, however, he came to Morris, where he engaged in business along that line on his own account. In the spring of 1866 he removed to Braceville township, where he remained until 1894 or 1895, when he took up his abode upon his present farm, comprising eighty acres of rich land in Mazon township. He has prospered as the result of his unflagging industry and enterprise and the assistance of his wife, who has been indeed a capable helpmeet to him. They now each own eighty acres of valuable land and have a comfortable home for their old age.

Mr. Herold was married January 27, 1857, in Chicago, to Babeta Reinlasoeder, who was born in Bavaria, February 20, 1826, in the same locality as her husband, a daughter of Leonard and Jacobina (Gier) Reinlasoeder. Her father was a butcher in Ansbach and both he and his wife were natives of that country, belonging to old Bavarian families. Their children were Jacobina, Hannah, Margaret and John, who came to America; and Frederick, who remained in Ansbach. In 1858 the father crossed the Atlantic, when sixty-nine years of age, accompanied by his wife and daughter Margaret. Mrs. Herold had come to America in 1854, alone, and on reaching this country, her father made his home with her, as he was too old to do any business. He died on the farm upon which our subject resided in Braceville township, being then seventy-two years of age. He was a member of the Lutheran church and was always an industrious and upright man. He owned a small farm of twenty acres in Bavaria and reared a good

family. His wife died at the age of seventy-five years, in the home of her son, John, in Good Farm township, Grundy county. As before stated, their daughter, Babeta, came to America alone, when twenty-seven years of age, sailing from Bremen in June, 1854, on the Dolphin, which reached New York after a voyage of forty-two days. She made her way to Chicago, where she secured work, there remaining until her marriage in 1857. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Herold are Jacobina, who was born January 21, 1858, and died at the age of five years and six months; and Amelia, who was born March 10, 1863, and is the wife of L. Dujarrick, who works the home farm. They have two living children, Florence R. and Inez Emma.

In their religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Herold are Lutherans, and in politics Mr. Herold is independent, but cast his last vote for W. J. Bryan and free silver. He and his wife have succeeded in securing a good home, although they came to America without capital and with no knowledge of the English language, and in the face of many difficulties they have steadily worked their way upward until they now have a comfortable competence. They certainly deserve great credit for their success and are entitled to the high regard which is given to them.

ALLEN H. FOSTER.

Among the veterans of the civil war who at the call for troops responded and went forth to battle for the Union is Allen Horton Foster, a highly respected citizen of Mazon township, Grundy county. His life record has indeed been an honorable one, characterized by fidelity to duty not only upon the battle-fields of the south but also in all the relations of his public and private career. It is believed that his ancestry on the paternal side is Scotch-Irish. The founders of the family in America came here in very early colonial days, and afterward became pioneers of Pennsylvania. Richard Foster, the first of whom we have authentic record, was a well-to-do farmer of Maryland.

In 1710 Basil Foster, one of his descendants, emigrated to the Keystone state. In 1779 he and his family, together with twelve other families, met in Prince George county, Maryland, and signed a compact agreeing to penetrate the forests on the Broad Top mountains of Pennsylvania and make permanent settlements. In this colony were Richard and Benjamin Penn and Lewis Fluck, "the guide of 1776," together with other families. This little band of emigrants moved up the river to where the town of Saxton now stands and there built a block-house and surrounded the tract of land with a stockade. That same ground is now the site of the Fockler cemetery.

Allen H. Foster

Harriet Fuller Foster

When July, 1780, rolled around they had a considerable crop of grain to harvest and were engaged in that work on a certain Saturday on the 15th of July, 1780, when alarm was spread through the little colony by the sight of smoke arising from Shy Beaver block-house, six miles down the river. This was an indication that the Delaware Indians were on the war-path. An attack had been expected and by a code of signals the settlers were called to the Shoup block-house, and ere the dawn of Sunday, July 16, 1780, the twelve families that had made their way to the Juniata valley had started on their way back to Maryland. There were forty persons in the party. Seven years later, in 1787, the same twelve families and several other families in addition returned to the Juniata valley, and the Fosters pushed their way into the wilderness six miles southeast of where they had made their first settlement. In 1789 Basil Foster and his son, Richard L., built a hewed-log house in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, which has since sheltered six generations of the family, and is still occupied.

Richard L. Foster, one of the sons of Basil Foster and the grandfather of our subject, was born in Maryland, September 16, 1770, and was therefore about nine years of age at the time of the first emigration to Pennsylvania. When the settlers were driven from their new home through fear of the Indians he and Charity Johnson, then a little maiden of ten summers, were placed upon the same horse and thus traveled to the Potomac river. The little girl was born in Maryland, September 27, 1769. In the seven years which followed their return to their native state their friendship continued to grow, and ultimately ripened into love. In 1793 they were married by the famous Bishop Asbury of the Methodist church. Their union was blessed with the following children: Wealthy, born April 8, 1794, died in Bureau county, Illinois, in 1879; Sarah, born September 26, 1795, died in Bureau county, in 1885; Ephraim, born January 12, 1797, died in Fulton county, Pennsylvania, in 1877; Eli, born July 10, 1799, died in Grundy county, Illinois, in 1875; Richard, born August 29, 1801, died at Wallace, Knox county, Illinois, August 29, 1888; Lewis, born February 9, 1803, was living in Lucas county, Iowa, in 1888, but since that time has not been heard from; Thomas, born September 30, 1805, died in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1886; Ruth, born July 10, 1808, was living in Decatur county, Iowa, in 1888; Josiah, born March 28, 1810, was living in Highland county, Ohio, in 1888; and Septimus, born October 2, 1813, was living in Fulton county, Pennsylvania, in 1888. After their marriage the parents of these children moved into the old log house in Pennsylvania that Richard L. Foster, the father, had erected. Richard Foster was renowned as a hunter, and many interesting stories have been told of his exploits. It is believed that both he and his father were in the battle of Bloody Run, Penn-

sylvania. He lived to the venerable age of eighty-eight years, passing away November 30, 1853, while his wife died October 22, 1843. Many of their descendants are scattered throughout the United States, the representatives of the family being particularly numerous in Illinois.

Eli Foster, the father of our subject, was born July 10, 1799, in Maryland, became a pioneer carpenter and cabinet-maker of Pennsylvania, and was married in Bedford county, that state, April 29, 1827, to Catherine Steele. Their marriage occurred where the original settlement of the family was made, on the Raystown branch of the Juniata river. The lady was born in that locality, April 24, 1810. The Steeles were an old Pennsylvania Dutch family, and the father was a pioneer of Bedford county, that state, where he cleared and developed a large farm and became a well-to-do agriculturist. His children were: Jacob, a Dunkard minister, was the father of eleven children, and after giving to each one of them eight hundred acres of land he had eleven hundred acres left. He also owned a sawmill and gristmill, and was a prominent and influential citizen, who enjoyed the confidence of the entire community. He transacted business for the entire neighborhood, and no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed. The other children of Mr. Steele were George, Solomon, Catherine and Lydia, all of whom became well-to-do farming people.

Eli Foster and his wife, the parents of our subject, took up their abode in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where the father worked at the trades of carpentering and cabinet-making. He conducted a shop for many years, manufacturing furniture and coffins. In 1840 he removed with his family to Highland county, Ohio, making the trip in the fall of that year with wagons. They were several days on the way, but at length took up their abode in Vienna, Highland county, where Mr. Foster conducted a cabinet-making shop for many years. His wife died in Ohio, January 14, 1886. She was a lady of many virtues and a sincere member of the Methodist church. The children of that union were: Reuben, born January 5, 1828; Cyrus, born October 25, 1829; Lucinda, born October 31, 1831; Levi, born September 23, 1833; Alfred L., born March 8, 1836; Allen, born April 8, 1838, in Pennsylvania, as were all those named above; George F., born in Ohio, July 23, 1840; Minerva, August 23, 1842; and Sarah E., July 5, 1844. After the death of his first wife Mr. Foster was again married, the wedding taking place in Highland county, Ohio, August 21, 1849, the lady of his choice being Mary Claypool, who was born November 30, 1819, and was the widow of Perry Claypool. Her maiden name was Halsted. The children of this marriage were: Juliana, who was born in 1853 and died October 8, 1854; and Catherine, born January 29, 1854. In 1849 Mr. Foster removed with his family to Illinois, making the journey with wagons and horses and reach-

ing his destination after three weeks of travel. He settled in Wauponsee township, Grundy county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land, which he improved, making a good pioneer home. He erected substantial buildings and transformed the wild tract into richly cultivated fields. His death occurred on that farm January 23, 1874, when he had attained the age of seventy-four years, six months and thirteen days. In his political views he was a Democrat, and held the office of supervisor and other township positions. In religious faith he was a Methodist, and was well known as a highly respected citizen.

Allen Horton Foster, the subject of this review, was born in Stonerstown, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1838, acquired a common-school education and was reared to farm life. He came with his father to Grundy county when a lad of ten years, and can well remember the journey. They camped at night by the wayside in true pioneer style, sleeping in the wagons. There were three two-horse teams and three weeks had passed ere they reached their destination. Amid the wild scenes of the frontier Mr. Foster was reared, and well can he remember the incidents of pioneer life.

He aided in the work of the home farm until after the inauguration of the civil war, when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he joined the Union army, enlisting as a private at Morris, Illinois, August 10, 1862. He became the tenor drummer and afterward the base drummer of Company D, Ninety-first Illinois Infantry, under command of Captain E. J. Fosha. He served for three years and was honorably discharged at New Orleans, on the 5th of June, 1865. The Ninety-first Illinois Infantry was organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, in August, 1862, by Colonel Henry M. Day, and was mustered in on the 8th of September, following. They left Camp Butler on the 1st of October for the front and arrived at Shepherdsville, Kentucky, on the 7th of that month. They did scouting duty in that state, following Morgan's troops and guarding the Louisville & Nashville Railroad from the 8th of October until the 20th of December. On the morning of the latter day the rebel general, John Morgan, appeared with his forces at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where the Ninety-first was then stationed, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Harry S. Smith. Three companies of the regiment had been detached and were captured the day before while guarding railroads elsewhere. The remainder of the regiment was armed with the old-fashioned flint-lock muskets, and as their ammunition was exhausted after a short engagement, at 1:30 P. M., they were forced to surrender, seven men having been killed, while several were wounded. The rebel loss in killed and wounded exceeded two hundred. The Ninety-first was soon afterward paroled. On the 28th of December, 1862, its men scattered, making their way to Benton barracks, St. Louis, Missouri. Many of them

returned home on short visits, but on the 28th of February, 1863, two-thirds of the regiment answered to roll call at Benton barracks and were given six months' pay.

On the 5th of June of the same year they were exchanged and were furnished with new arms and equipments. In July they were stationed at Vicksburg where many were ill, while others died, the result of poisoned water which had been contaminated by the dead who had fallen in the memorable siege of Vicksburg. From the 25th of July until the 13th of August, 1863, the regiment engaged in scouting duty near Port Hudson, after which they were stationed at New Orleans, Louisiana, until September 5, 1863. On the 7th of that month they were engaged in battle with the enemy at Atchafalaya river, and on the following day succeeded in driving the rebels across the river and captured two hundred prisoners. On the 23d of October the Ninety-first started for Texas, arriving at Point Isabel in that state on the 3d of November. On the 6th of the same month they started for Brownsville, Texas, and on the way were engaged in skirmishing with the enemy during the three-days march. On the 31st of December, 1863, the regiment made its famous raid, capturing Salt Lake, and on the 9th of January, 1864, they again arrived at Brownsville, after marching two hundred miles. On the 11th of September of the same year the regiment was attacked by the enemy at Bagdad, on the Rio Grande river, and afterward took an active part in the siege and capture of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely. The same command was also engaged in the skirmish with the enemy on Eight Mile creek, which was the last engagement on the Mississippi. Mr. Foster was ill in a hospital in New Orleans for a month. He was a loyal and faithful soldier, performing his duty promptly and cheerfully. He is now an honored member of the Grand Army Post at Morris.

Returning to his home, Mr. Foster engaged in farming, and in Mazon, on the 1st of January, 1867, when twenty-eight years of age, was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Fuller, whose birth occurred December 28, 1847, in Mazon township, one mile southeast of the village, her parents being William and Sarah (Royal) Fuller. Her father was born in Jefferson county, near LeRay, New York, February 21, 1811, and was a son of Perley and Rebecca (Rogers) Fuller. Her great-grandfather was Porter Fuller, who was born in Vermont and was of English descent. He removed to New York during the pioneer settlement of that state. The Fullers, however, were representatives of an old colonial family connected with the Puritan emigrants, one of their ancestors having come from England with the Pilgrims in the Mayflower in 1620, when a settlement was effected at Plymouth. Perley Fuller was a farmer of Jefferson county, New York,

and there reared his family, his children being William, Rebecca, Almeda, Richard, Fannie, Julia, Hattie and Perley. All were born in the Empire state, after which the grandfather of Mrs. Foster removed to Ohio, dying in Garrettsville. The year of his emigration westward was 1833. He settled upon a tract of heavily timbered land, and in the midst of the forest developed a large and valuable farm, containing about five hundred acres. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812 and was a member of the Presbyterian church. His wife died in 1874, at the age of eighty-one years.

Their son, William Fuller, the father of Mrs. Foster, left his home in New York when about thirty years of age and removed to Chicago, where he lived for one year. He purchased an acre of land at Joliet, but came to Mazon, living with Owen Fuller for a year. He then purchased eighty acres of wild land in Mazon township, for a dollar and a quarter per acre, and paid for the property with money gained by splitting rails for thirty-seven and a half cents per hundred. On the 10th of January, 1846, in Mazon, he married Sarah Royal, who was born in Ohio, December 11, 1824, a daughter of Charles and Mary Royal. Her father was of English lineage, a son of William Royal, who had come to this country from England. Leaving the Buckeye state, Charles Royal emigrated to Illinois and cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Mazon township. About 1852 he removed to Oregon, crossing the plains with wagons, and died in the Sunset state when about seventy-eight years of age. His children were Wesley, John, Sarah, Eliza, Fletcher, William, Mary, Elizabeth and James. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fuller located upon his farm of eighty acres, and his business interests were successfully conducted. He prospered in his undertakings, becoming a substantial pioneer and the owner of a well improved and valuable farm of three hundred and sixty acres. He also gave to each of his children one hundred acres. These were: Hattie, now Mrs. Foster; Gilbert, who was born January 28, 1850; and Mary R., born August 10, 1855. In his religious views the father was liberal, but was a man of high probity, honorable in all life's relations. He died March 11, 1875, on the old homestead, when sixty-four years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster began their domestic life in Mazon township, on a part of the Fuller homestead, and there lived until their removal to the village of Mazon, in 1897. He prospered in his business undertakings, being ably assisted by his wife, who proved to him a faithful and capable helpmate. He now owns three hundred and ten acres of land three-fourths of a mile east of the village and from his property derives a handsome income. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Foster was blessed with seven children, namely: Cora May, who was born May 19, 1868; Grace, born

June 30, 1870; Blanche, born July 29, 1872; Pina, born January 11, 1874; Daisy, born July 4, 1876; Hattie, born May 9, 1881; and Roy A., born June 4, 1886.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster are Methodists in religious faith and take an active interest in the upbuilding of the church in which they hold membership. In his political views he is a Democrat, but has never sought office, preferring that his time and attention should be given to his business affairs, in which he has met with creditable and well merited success. He is now living retired in Mazon, enjoying a well earned rest. Upon the battle-fields of the south he displayed his loyalty to the government, and at all times has been true to his duties of citizenship, taking an active interest in everything tending to promote the welfare of county, state and nation.

LAZENBY WALKER.

Lazenby Walker, deceased, was one of the brave soldiers of the civil war who upon the altar of his country laid down his life in defense of the Union. In response to President Lincoln's call he donned the "blue" and upon the battle-fields of the south manifested his patriotic spirit by his devotion to duty. He was a man of unblemished character, widely and favorably known in Grundy county at the time when he enlisted under the stars and stripes. He founded here an excellent family that is still represented by the widow and children.

Mr. Walker was born in Monroe county, near Bellville, Ohio, June 1, 1825, and was a son of Robert and Harriet (Lazenby) Walker. The parents were natives of England, in which country they were married. The father became a local Methodist minister in Monroe county, Ohio, where he located with his family in early pioneer times. There he owned and operated a farm and for many years he also engaged in preaching the gospel. About 1849 he removed to Morris, Illinois, and after a short time he purchased a farm about a mile south of Mazon, a part of this property now being occupied by his grandson, Eddie Walker. Rev. Robert Walker continued the work of the ministry and carried the "glad tidings of great joy" to the early pioneer settlers of Grundy county. He was largely instrumental in founding the Methodist churches of the county, and the influence of his life was as a grateful benediction to all who knew him. In his later year he retired from farming and removed to Morris, where he died at the advanced age of eighty years. His residence was always the home of the early pioneer circuit-riders, and his earnest devotion to the cause of Methodism was most effective in promoting the work of his church in this section of the state.

In his early life he gave his political support to the Whig party and later voted with the Republican party. His children were Lazenby, John, William W., Thomas and Mary L., wife of Thomas Widney, now of Chicago. Three of the sons,—Lazenby, William L. and Thomas,—were Union soldiers during the civil war.

Lazenby Walker acquired a common-school education, was reared upon the home farm, and near Bellville, Monroe county, on the 18th of March, 1852, was united in marriage to Miss Ann Clithero, who was born August 4, 1829, near Bellville, her parents being John D. and Jemima (Rush) Clithero. Her father was born November 25, 1803, and was a son of John and Ann (Dixon) Clithero. Her grandfather was a native of Wales and was a shoemaker by trade. After his marriage he came to America, bringing with him his family, and taking up his abode in Bellville, Ohio. In that locality he developed an excellent farm in the midst of the forest and made a good pioneer home, becoming a substantial citizen. He and his wife, Ann, were the parents of several children, but only two lived beyond infancy, and Mary died at the age of sixteen years. John, the other member of the family, became the father of Mrs. Walker. Her grandfather, John Clithero, Sr., was a member of the Methodist church and an industrious and highly respected pioneer citizen. He lived to old age and died in Bellville, Ohio. John D. Clithero, the father of Mrs. Walker, obtained a common-school education in the Buckeye state and was reared to agricultural pursuits. In Ohio, on the 7th of October, 1824, he married Jemima Rush, who was born in Pennsylvania, March 6, 1806, a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Rush, who also were natives of the Keystone state. Her father was a farmer and became one of the pioneers of Monroe county, Ohio, where he cleared a farm in the midst of the heavy timber region. His home was a log cabin, and so wild was the country that it was no infrequent thing to hear wolves howling around their house at night. Mr. Rush held membership in the United Brethren church and was a man whose energy, enterprise and reliability made him a highly respected citizen of his community. He died in Monroe county, Ohio, near Antioch, when well advanced in years. His children were: John, Slater, Rachel, Elizabeth and Jemima.

After their marriage John D. and Jemima Clithero located on a farm in the midst of the forest and energetically devoted his time and attention to the work of developing his land. He made an excellent pioneer home. All of his children were born in Ohio, and, with the exception of two who died in early life, all became a credit to the family. Selling his farm near Bellville, Mr. Clithero took up his abode near Woodsfield, in Monroe county, Ohio, where he purchased a large farm, upon which he lived for many years, his death there occurring March 9, 1880, when he had attained the age of

seventy-nine years. A member of the Methodist church, he long served as class-leader, filling that position until advanced age prevented his regular attendance at the church services. For a number of years he was also a licensed exhorter in the church. Plain-spoken, straightforward in all his dealings, he carefully reared his children to have strict regard for truth and morality, and in these respects he set them an excellent example. His life was indeed an exemplary one and he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all who knew him. In politics he was an old-line Whig until after the dissolution of the party, when he joined the ranks of the new Republican party. His wife, a most estimable lady, passed away June 19, 1881. This worthy couple were the parents of the following children: Joseph, who was born July 25, 1825, was married May 14, 1850, to Caroline Jones, and died July 8, 1896; Elizabeth, born May 25, 1827, was married December 13, 1849, to Fletcher Starr, and died March 24, 1893; Ann, born August 4, 1829, was married March 18, 1852; John, born July 2, 1831; Isaac, born June 13, 1835, was married March 8, 1857, to Sarah Taylor, who was born May 30, 1835, and afterward he was a second time married, on the 28th of January, 1869; Rachel, who was born May 20, 1837, died June 7, 1839; Edward, who was born May 18, 1839, was married in August, 1861; Jemima, who was born March 19, 1841, was married June 17, 1862, and died March 7, 1871; Ivy J., was born April 9, 1843; an infant, unnamed, died January 14, 1845, the day succeeding its birth; Citizen was born February 1, 1846, and was married January 26, 1869; and Cyrus W., born December 1, 1847, was married September 6, 1877. Sarah Clithero was married November 6, 1856, to Samuel Gilmore, and died March 30, 1863.

Lazenby Walker and his wife, Ann Clithero, located on a farm about a mile from Bellville, Ohio, renting land in Monroe county until they came to Illinois. On the 6th of December, 1858, they arrived in Morris and took up their abode in old Mazon, where they lived for one year. In the spring of 1860 Mr. Walker purchased eighty acres of land south of the village,—the farm upon which his son Eddie now resides. This was a tract of wild prairie, upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made. He at once erected a home and began the improvement of the farm, but his labors were soon afterward interrupted by his enlistment as a private in the civil war.

Feeling that his country needed his services and that it was his duty to aid in behalf of the Union, he enlisted at Morris, on the 11th of August, 1862, as a member of Company D, Ninety-fourth Illinois Infantry. He served for three years. He took part in a number of skirmishes and was always found at his post, faithfully discharging any task assigned to him. Death came to him at Brownsville, Texas, on the 14th of December, 1863,

and his remains were laid in the soldiers' cemetery at Fort Brown. He died for his country, leaving to his family a record of an heroic and well-spent life. He was a member of the Methodist church, and all who knew him esteemed him for his sterling worth. Upon the farm he was an industrious and hard-working man, and as a soldier he was noted for his accommodating disposition, being ever ready to aid a comrade who was ill or in distress. He often took another's place on guard duty and thus won the love of all who wore the blue.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Walker were: William D., who was born January 7, 1853, and died when about six years of age; Isaac Benson, who was born January 18, 1855; Harriet Jane, born March 8, 1857, and died in infancy; Thomas Wilbur, born April 16, 1859; Eddie W., born October 31, 1860; and Oliver L., born December 8, 1863. After the enlistment of her husband Mrs. Walker took charge of the home farm and worked very hard to bring up her family and care for them. The children were small and the struggle was a very difficult one. However, she resolutely faced the conditions before her, and by her thrift, industry and good management succeeded in keeping her little ones together and in providing for them a comfortable home. At the time of the father's death but little improvement had been made upon the farm. Only a small payment had been made on the farm, and the mother was obliged to pay the entire amount agreed upon to perfect the title. Bravely she struggled on, supporting her family, providing for them a good home and giving them a good common-school education. As their financial resources increased she purchased more land and added to the property until she owned a valuable tract of two hundred acres. Upon this she erected good farm buildings and thus became the owner of one of the most desirable properties in the township. She is one of the honored pioneer women of Grundy county, and certainly deserves great credit for what she accomplished in bringing up her family and providing for them a comfortable home under such difficult circumstances. Her own educational privileges were limited, but she had a naturally bright and active mind and excellent business qualifications. When only twelve years of age she united with the Methodist church, of which she has since been a faithful and earnest member, doing all in her power to advance its work and rearing her children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Thomas W. Walker, a son of Lazenby and Ann (Clithero) Walker, was reared in Grundy county upon the old home farm, and having arrived at years of maturity he was married, September 17, 1879, to Martha Preston, the wedding taking place in Good Farm township. She was born in Grundy county, May 20, 1861, her father being James Preston, a son of Elijah and Martha (Weakly) Preston. James Preston was a native of Tuscarawas

county, Ohio, and was a farmer by occupation. He was married in Guernsey county, Ohio, to Elizabeth Huffman, who was of sturdy Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. In 1849 Mr. Preston removed with his family to Grundy county, Illinois, locating in Felix, where his father had purchased two hundred and forty acres of land. Upon this tract William and James Preston, brothers, established their home, and the latter improved the farm and added to it until he had two hundred and eighty acres of land. He was recognized as one of the valued and representative citizens of the community. Twice married, the children of his first marriage were: Eliza; Frank, who died at the age of fourteen years; Randolph; Sarah; Mary Adeline; and Martha. After the death of his first wife Mr. Preston wedded Rachel Martin, nee Bailey, and they had one son, James.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker began their domestic life upon the farm now occupied by Oliver Walker, and there they lived until the death of the wife, on the 17th of August, 1880. She was a woman of many virtues and a member of the Methodist church. Their only child was Maud M., who was born August 18, 1880, and was therefore only five days old at the time of her mother's death. Her grandmother, Mrs. Ann Walker, then took charge of her and has carefully reared and educated her. She is a graduate of the high school of Mazon and has enjoyed excellent musical advantages. She has taught music to some extent, but does not make it a business. A young lady of culture and refinement, she is a credit to the family and has brought many happy hours to the old homestead. For his second wife Thomas W. Walker chose Miss Florence Beckwith, the wedding being celebrated in Plainville, Will county, Illinois. After their marriage they resided for a few years in Plainville and then removed to Mazon, where Mr. Walker erected an attractive and substantial two-story brick residence. Their home has been blessed with the presence of one child, Albert Vernon.

In his political views Mr. Walker is a stalwart Republican and has held the office of treasurer of the school board. He holds membership in the Methodist church, and is a public-spirited and progressive citizen who gives his aid and co-operation to all measures calculated to prove of benefit to his town, county and state. A practical business man, he has won success in his undertakings, and throughout an active business career his honorable efforts have gained for him the confidence of his fellow men.

EDDIE W. WALKER.

On the roll of enterprising farmers and stock-raisers of Grundy county appears the name of Eddie W. Walker, who is engaged in the cultivation

of a valuable tract of land and the breeding of fine horses and cattle, his home being in Mazon township. He is a man of excellent education and well known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen. He was born in Mazon township, October 31, 1860, and was reared to farm life. He began his education in the common schools of his district and afterward continued his studies in the commercial department of the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana, in which he was graduated with the class of 1872. Subsequently he attended the normal college at Dixon, Illinois, and later engaged in teaching school in Mazon township. He was very successful in his labors as an educator and acted as the principal of the graded school in Mazon during the fall and winter of 1888. Altogether he taught school for eight winters, while during the summer season he engaged in agricultural pursuits. His labors in the school-room were very effective and beneficial, for he had the ability to impart clearly and concisely to others the knowledge he had acquired.

Mr. Walker was married September 25, 1885, in Gardner, Illinois, at the residence of the bride's parents, to Miss Myrtle H. Keepers, a daughter of J. J. and Mary (Kimball) Keepers. She was born February 15, 1865, in Jefferson township, Guernsey county, Ohio, and was brought by her parents to Grundy county when only fourteen months old, the family locating in Good Farm township. She was therefore reared in Grundy county and in the common schools began her education, her early privileges being supplemented by study in the Morris Normal School through one winter and in the Gardner high school. She thus acquired a good education and when only seventeen years of age began teaching. For five terms prior to her marriage she followed teaching, with excellent success. She is a lady of superior culture and innate refinement, and to her husband has been a faithful companion and helpmate on life's journey. Mr. and Mrs. Walker began their domestic life upon the old homestead and Mr. Walker continued to rent land from his mother for about five years. On the division of the estate he received forty acres as his share, and to this he has added from time to time until he now owns one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land, which he has improved with tile drainage and by excellent cultivation until he now has one of the most desirable farming properties in the community. He has erected upon the place good substantial buildings, and the well tilled fields give evidence of his careful supervision. He is a well known and prominent breeder of Percheron horses and short-horn Durham cattle. He is a well known dealer, having some very fine stock. A practical business man, his industry and enterprise have been salient features in his success, and to-day he stands among the well-to-do farmers of Grundy county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Walker have been born the following children: Floyde E., who was born July 24, 1886; Myr J., born March 26, 1890; Ollie L., born May 16, 1892; and Dayre K., who was born July 13, 1897, and died February 8, 1898, at the age of seven months.

The parents are both earnest Christian people. Mr. Walker belongs to the Methodist church, with which he united when fourteen years of age, and his wife became a member of the Baptist church when twelve years of age. He has always taken an active interest in the cause of education and the public-school system finds in him a warm friend. He has done effective service in the interests of the schools while serving as director and trustee, and his co-operation has been given to many other movements and measures calculated to prove of public benefit. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of Mazon. Honorable in business, straightforward in all life's relations, he commands the respect and esteem of his fellow men and is justly classified among the representative agriculturists of his community.

JOHN H. COLES.

The writer may be in error, but, having been for many years a close observer of all sorts and conditions of men, and having to some extent studied the influence of occupation on character, he has long been of the opinion that the daily life of the shoemaker is conducive to thought. Thought is conducive to right understanding, and hence the fact that shoemakers are exceptionally well informed upon all public questions would appear to require no further explanation. It should be understood, however, that shoemakers who work in their own shops are referred to, shoemakers who are masters of all parts of the trade, not "operatives" who do odd bits of shoemaking in big factories and know little about any other portions of the work. In his idle intervals the shoemaker reads, and while he works he thinks and argues, and he is usually able to give a good reason for any opinion he may advance. As a consequence his humble shop becomes the center of local political discussion and is a point from which political opinion of a sensible type is disseminated throughout his neighborhood. Usually, as with the subject of this sketch, the shoemaker is entrusted with responsible office.

John H. Coles, notary public, justice of the peace and police justice, has been a resident of Gardner, Grundy county, Illinois, since 1857. He was born in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, February 5, 1822, and his father, Enoch Coles, was a native of Westchester county, New York. The family is of English origin and the original American ancestor came over in

1642. Two brothers came at that time and one of them settled in New York and the other in New Jersey, and from the former the subject of this notice descended. Enoch Coles was married to Margaret Henderson, a native of Delaware, and about 1818 he removed to Pennsylvania, where he lived out the remainder of his life. After her husband's death, the wife of Enoch Coles and the mother of John H. Coles removed to Germantown, Pennsylvania, where she died.

John H. Coles was one of sixteen children, only seven of whom were living in 1899. He was reared, educated and married in Pennsylvania. His first wife, who was Mary Elizabeth Hart, died in Gardner in 1861. In 1863 he was married to Mrs. Martha J. Dunmore, whose maiden name was Sutton. Mr. Coles was the father of five children by his first wife, three of whom are living; and four by his second wife, all of whom are living. The eldest by his first marriage now living is Mrs. Mary Van Dusen, of Pontiac, Illinois. The others are John Alfred, of Clay county, Kansas, and William F., of Ottumwa, Iowa. George and Henry, children by this marriage, are dead. The eldest by his second marriage is Elwood A., of Greenfield township. The second is Mrs. Jessie M. Clover, of Morris, Illinois. The others are Herbert M. and Nathan E., both of Morris, Illinois.

John H. Coles learned the trade of shoemaking of his father, who followed that trade as the business of his life, and has worked at it most of the time since. He has been a justice of the peace and police magistrate for nearly thirty years, was the first police magistrate of Gardner, the first president of the board of trustees of his town and has been town clerk for twenty-five years. He was the first notary public in Greenfield township and now has his ninth consecutive commission. Politically he has been a Republican since the organization of that party. All his life he has been a pronounced temperance man and he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since 1843.

SAMPSON H. REDFIELD.

Sampson Henry Redfield, one of the venerable and respected pioneer citizens of Mazon township, Grundy county, was born in Winchester, Worcester county, Massachusetts, January 9, 1814, a son of Sherman and Elsie (Warner) Redfield. Both the Warners and the Redfields were of the old New England Puritan stock, the remote founders of the families having come from England, at the time of the foundation of the Massachusetts colony.

William Redfin—or Redfen, as the name was first spelled in America and which was gradually changed to Redfield—was the founder of this family

in this country, coming from England between 1630 and 1639 and settling on the south side of Charles river, about six miles from Boston, one of the first to locate on that side of the river. But little is known of him, however. From his son James the branch of Redfields with which we are concerned has descended. James learned the art of tanning in New London, Connecticut, serving five years from April 1, 1667, at which latter date he was sixteen years of age.

Theophilus, the eldest son of James, next in the line of descent to the relatives of our subject, learned the carpenter's trade, and probably settled at Killingworth, Connecticut, after becoming of age. He bought a homestead, which was afterward named Clinton, and is now one of the pleasantest of those villages which border on Long Island sound. About 1717 or the the next year he purchased a tract of land of about a hundred and twenty acres on Chestnut Hill, North Killingworth, where several families of the name still reside, and here Theophilus passed his remaining days. He was known as Sergeant Redfield, was a member of a military company and of several town committees, and was a prominent citizen. He married Priscilla Greenel, or Greinel, who at the time was aged seventeen years; she was a daughter of Daniel and Lydia Greenel. The children were Daniel, Elizabeth, Richard, Ebenezer, Lydia, Theophilus, Priscilla, Peleg, George, William, Josiah, Jane and James,—thirteen in all, and all of whom lived to have families of their own. From this stock are descended nine-tenths of those bearing the name of Redfield in this country.

George Redfield, the sixth son of Theophilus, resided at Killingworth, Connecticut, and in 1750 married Trial Ward, of that place. She died in 1762, and January 8, 1767, Mr. Redfield married Abigail Stone, who died April 15, 1769. He died at Killingworth, May 30, 1812, in his eighty-seventh year. His children were all by his first marriage, namely: Ambrose, born December 13, 1750; Jeremy, August 21, 1752; Sylvanus, December 30, 1754; Seth, January 17, 1757; Jane, December 19, 1759; and Peleg, May 14, 1762.

Seth, the fourth son of George Redfield, the next in our line, resided at Killingworth until about 1800, when he removed to Claremont, New Hampshire. December 2, 1779, he married Sarah Pierson, a daughter of Samuel and Rachel Pierson, of Killingworth. She died at Claremont, September 5, 1802, and he afterward married a widow named Parmalee, and returned to Killingworth, where he passed the remainder of his days. The children by his first wife were Truman, born at Killingworth, September 23, 1780, became a blacksmith and died at Guadaloupe, West Indies, in 1801; Seth, born also at Killingworth, July 17, 1780, and died July 18, 1782; Sherman, born June 26, 1783; Sheldon, June 24, 1785; Cleveland, October 6,

1787; Samuel Ashford, born July 23, 1790, became a sailor, was impressed by the British while in the Gulf of Mexico and escaped, and died in 1813, at Woodstock, Vermont; Anthony Chauncey, born October 7, 1791; Sarah, January 7, 1793, died August 28, 1795; Seth, born February 10, 1796; Marvin, February 16, 1799; and Clermont, born in 1800 and died in 1802. The children by the second wife were: Adeline, born at Claremont, New Hampshire, in 1804; William, born in 1806, moved west and became a ship-builder at Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Sherman, the third son of Seth Redfield, and the father of our subject, was a gunsmith and blacksmith by trade, and married at Claremont, in 1805, Elsie Maria Warner, a daughter of Abijah and Elsie (Fuller) Warner, of Hartford, Connecticut. In 1814 he served as a musician in the war with Great Britain, under Captain Warren, and was in one battle. From Claremont he moved to Fitzwilliam, New York, afterward to Rochester, same state, and finally to Canton, same state, in 1820, where he died June 3, 1850, aged sixty-seven years. His children were Lola Almira, born April 12, 1806; Frances Maria, born November 3, 1808, and died October 12, 1811; Sarah, born March 27, 1811; Sampson Henry, born January 9, 1814; Elsie Maria, April 28, 1816; Orrin Sherman, October 6, 1819; and Emily, December 29, 1824. Mr. Sherman Redfield and wife were both members of the Methodist church. In politics he was a Democrat, and in his general character he was an industrious and highly respected citizen.

Abijah Warner was also of the old Puritan stock and a soldier in the war of the Revolution. He married Ellen Fuller, a daughter of John Fuller, of the old New England stock, who was a shoemaker by trade and also a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Abijah Warner was a well known tavern-keeper in Winchester for many years. He moved to St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1820, and passed his remaining days on his farm in that county, where he died in 1832, a prominent and respected citizen. His children were Abijah, Elsie, Betsy, Sampson and Nathaniel.

During our Revolutionary period the Redfield family took a prominent part in behalf of American independence, and the sons of George Redfield, the great-grandfather of our subject, were noted for their patriotism. Ambrose, the eldest son of Seth, was a corporal in 1775, in Captain Samuel Gates' company, which was a part of the Sixth Regiment, serving at the siege of Boston in General Putnam's brigade and in several other engagements. Jeremy Redfield, the second son of George, was a resident of Killingworth, was a fifer in that war, succeeded by his brother Peleg. The last mentioned entered the continental army as a fifer in 1777, at the age of sixteen years and rendered a long continued service. There were many Redfields in the Revolutionary war and seven in the war of 1812.

Sampson Henry Redfield, the immediate subject of this notice, was six years old when his father went to Canton, New York. He received but very little education, there being no schools of any account in his day; but he learned the blacksmith's trade thoroughly with his father and afterward farming, having a natural love for agricultural life and being determined when young to become the owner of broad acres. Mr. Redfield married, in St. Lawrence county, New York, February 17, 1848, Mary Maria Hutchinson, who was born in Canton, New York, March 8, 1822, a daughter of William and Mary E. (Clark) Hutchinson. William Hutchinson was born in England in 1790. His father was a native of Ireland and his mother was an English lady. William came to America when young, leaving his native country on account of the severe military laws. He settled in Canton, New York, and there married Mary E. Clark, of New England Puritan stock, and bought a farm in St. Lawrence county, New York, where he passed all his remaining days and died in 1860, aged about seventy years. Politically he was a Democrat and he was an industrious, much respected man. His children were Mary M., Clark, Louisa, Ira and Laura.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Sampson H. Redfield lived near Canton, New York, where he bought seventy acres of land, until November, 1858, when they moved to Illinois. They made the journey by way of the lakes to Chicago and drove from there to Grundy county and settled in Mazon township on forty acres of land which Mr. Redfield bought, for eighteen dollars an acre, upon which there were some improvements, including a small frame house. He set himself diligently to the task of improving this farm and putting it under cultivation, and he was so successful that he was enabled to add to his landed property by judicious investment of his savings until he now owns two hundred acres of as good and productive land as the sun ever warmed into fertility, with fine and ample buildings and the best appliances of all kinds. Mrs. Redfield died October 28, 1880, after having been long a member of the Methodist church, with which Mr. Redfield has been identified for forty-five years. He is a Democrat in politics, a strong temperance man and a citizen of the highest character.

The children of Sampson Henry and Mary Maria (Hutchinson) Redfield are Mary E., Malvina J., and Emily E. They all received an excellent education, acquired largely at the High School Institute, a select school in Morris, and all became teachers. Mary E. has taught in the schools of Grundy county for ten years and has become known as an efficient and popular teacher. A lady of much energy and ability, she went to Dakota and taught school near Alexandria and took up a government land claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas county, South Dakota, which she sold a few years later for one thousand dollars. She returned and is now living on the

old homestead. She is a lady of excellent financial ability. Malvina J. married George Burnham, a farmer, and they had four children named Leland R., Mabel M., Amanda L. and Ida E. Mrs. Burnham died aged about forty-four years. She was a teacher in Grundy county for several years. Emily E. married Joseph E. Keepers and he farms the homestead. Mrs. Keepers was also a school-teacher in Grundy county.

RHONELLO G. THOMPSON.

The Thompson family of which our subject is a representative was founded in New England in colonial days. His grandfather, James Thompson, was born in the Pine Tree state and was twice married, his first union being with Sarah Bacon. After her death he wedded Matilda Stiles, and both ladies were representatives of old New England families that were established in Maine at an early day. The children of the first union were: Timothy, a cooper and carpenter; Osgood; Samuel, who died in 1850; and James, who is still living on a farm in Maine. The mother died in 1832 and the father wedded Matilda Stiles, by whom he had six children: Sarah, wife of Benjamin Moody; Hannah J., wife of Robert Shaddock; John, a resident farmer of the Pine Tree state; Mary E., who is married and lives in Maine; Lydia, wife of Albert Small; and Arletta, who is married and lives in Maine. James Thompson removed to Athens, Maine, after his marriage and became a well-to-do and respected citizen of that locality, his death occurring there in 1865, when he had attained a venerable age. He held the office of selectman and served as an officer in the war of 1812, while one of his sons became a member of a Maine regiment during the civil war. He was incarcerated in Andersonville prison.

Osgood Thompson, the father of our subject, obtained the usual school privileges afforded in his native state at that time. He was born in Somerset, Maine, December 30, 1821, and was married there on the 18th of December, 1842, to Hannah W. Wentworth, whose birth occurred near Camden, Maine, June 2, 1823, a daughter of Reuben and Sarah Wentworth. Her father was descended from old New England Puritan ancestors who came from the mother country, where the family was one of prominence. Hon. John Wentworth, one of the prominent men of Chicago, is a member of the same family. Reuben Wentworth was a farmer near Camden, Maine, and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of the community. He lived to an advanced age, his death occurring in the Pine Tree state. His children were Enoch, John, Daniel, Joseph, Jane, Evangeline and Sarah.

After his marriage Osgood Thompson located in Somerset county,

Maine, where he worked at his trade, maintaining his residence in Athens through a long period. In early life he served as a captain in the old state militia, was a selectman of his town, and held other local offices. In April, 1866, he came to Illinois, where in the following August he was joined by his family, who took up their abode on a farm in Highland township, Grundy county, upon which our subject now resides. The father rented the land at first, but afterward purchased it. It had been broken only the year previous to his arrival in the county, and all of the improvements upon it were placed there through his own efforts. The following year he purchased eighty acres of land in Wall township, Ford county, locating upon that property in 1870 and making it his home until his death. By additional purchase he extended his boundaries until it comprised one hundred and twenty acres. He improved that farm from the original prairie, erected good buildings thereon and made an excellent home, being regarded as an industrious and capable man, who was highly respected. He died September 23, 1898, at the age of seventy-seven years, and his wife passed away July 4, 1897. Both were consistent members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Thompson served as a class-leader for twenty-five years, and took an active part in promoting the growth and upbuilding of the congregation with which he was connected. A few years prior to his death he put aside business cares and took up his abode in Melvin, Ford county, where he owned a pleasant home. He served as a member of the town council and was an influential citizen of that locality, greatly respected for his sterling worth. His children, seven in number, were all born in Maine, namely: William H., born May 21, 1842; Frederick G., born March 29, 1844; Anna B., born November 9, 1846; Rhonello G., born September 4, 1848; May F., born June 24, 1854; James S., born July 9, 1858; and Vion O., born May 16, 1862. Of this family two of the sons, William and Fred, were members of the Seventh Maine Infantry during the civil war. They went to the front with Company F, for three years, and at the close of that period were honorably discharged, having participated in many battles, including the engagements at Gettysburg and the Wilderness, where Frederick was wounded.

Rhonello G. Thompson, whose name introduces this review, was born September 4, 1848, at Athens, Maine, and enjoyed the usual common-school privileges. He assisted in the working of his father's farm near his native town, and in 1866, when about nineteen years of age, came with his parents to Illinois. He was married when nearly twenty-two years of age in Highland township, Grundy county, to Alice Matilda Waite, the wedding being celebrated December 23, 1869. The lady was born in that township March 26, 1851, and is a daughter of Philip and Nancy (Bryant) Waite. Her father was born in New York, January 6, 1819, a son of Walter Waite, who

represented one of the old New England families of English lineage, representatives of the name being pioneer settlers near Buffalo, New York. Walter Waite was a farmer by occupation, and with his family he removed to Kane county, Illinois, where he died at about the age of fifty years. His children were Philip, Benjamin, Simon, Lydia, Clark and Hiram. Philip Waite, the father of Mrs. Thompson, was educated in the common schools, reared on a farm, and in 1842 removed to Ohio, where he was married November 6, 1845, to Nancy Bryant, of Dresden, that state. Her father, Joseph Bryant, was a native of Virginia, and became one of the pioneer settlers of Muskingum county, Ohio, establishing his home in Dresden. By trade he was a tailor. His children were John, Martin, Letitia, Maria, Nancy and Matilda.

Philip Waite and his wife located on a farm in Muskingum county, Ohio, and in 1849 came to Illinois, making the journey by team. They were six weeks upon the way and passed through Chicago when it was a mere village, Mr. Waite being offered a tract of land in what is now the heart of the city in exchange for his team of horses. He refused the offer, however, and continued on his way to Mazon township, Grundy county. Not long afterward he purchased land of the government in Highland township, a mile north and a mile west of the present home of our subject. This was wild prairie land upon which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, and not a house was in sight of their pioneer cabin. The country abounded in wild game, including deer, and venison was a frequent dish upon the family table. Mr. Waite prospered in his undertakings and added to his land until he became the owner of a valuable property of one hundred and ninety acres, all of which he placed under a high state of cultivation. He labored under many difficulties in his early settlement, but with characteristic determination conquered all obstacles. His horses were killed by lightning the first year and he was obliged to buy oxen. He also experienced the other hardships incident to the establishment of a home upon the frontier, but as the years passed by prosperity rewarded his labors. He was a member of the Universalist church and his wife belonged to the Christian church. An honorable and straightforward business man and a representative citizen, he was frequently called to public office, and for twenty years served as the supervisor of his township. His children were: Alvilda Maria, who was born March 10, 1842; Romanzo Walter, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, December 20, 1848; Alice M., who was born March 6, 1851, in Mazon township, Grundy county; Emma Caroline, September 11, 1853; Edna Bryant, January 11, 1855; and Newton John, November 11, 1858.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Thompson located on a farm in

Wall township, Ford county, but the following year returned to Highland township, Grundy county, and in April, 1871, purchased their present farm, then comprising eighty acres, partially improved. By thrift and industry Mr. Thompson has prospered and has added to his property until he now has one hundred and sixty acres of land, which is under a high state of cultivation, constituting one of the finest farms in his township. In 1885 he erected an attractive residence and has erected other substantial buildings, which add to the value and attractive appearance of the place. The home has been blessed with three children: Edna C., who was born June 7, 1874, and died April 19, 1875; Charles Osgood, born April 19, 1876; and Leslie Eugene, born April 18, 1881. The elder son married Louie Greenwalt, of Buffalo, New York, who resides in Massillon, Ohio. They have one son, Vernon R.

Mr. Thompson has always followed farming, with the exception of a short time which he spent in Chicago, where he was engaged in the feed business in connection with his brother William. He still retains an interest in that store. In politics he is a Republican and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias lodge of Verona.

CHARLES FILLMAN.

On the list of Grundy county's substantial farmers appears the name of Charles Fillman, who is one of the practical and progressive agriculturists of Good Farm township. He was born in Dwight, Livingston county, Illinois, August 28, 1860, a son of Jacob and Mary Fillman. His father, Jacob Martin Fillman, was one of the early settlers of Good Farm township and a worthy representative of the Fatherland, whence have come so many of the substantial American settlers. He was born in Nassau, August 29, 1826, his parents being John George and Anna Sevilla (Stark) Villman, for thus the name was spelled in Germany. The grandfather was a native of Germany, the family having for generations resided in that locality. John George Fillman was a miller by trade and resided in the city of Kaube. For some years he held membership in the Lutheran church, but afterward united with the Evangelical church. He owned a home and some horses and cattle and carried on farming on land which belonged to the town and was rented to the people for raising small crops. His death occurred in Germany, when he had attained the age of sixty-three years. His children were Nicholas, Christian, Henrietta, Philip, George and Jacob Martin.

Charles. Fillman.

Elizabeth. Fillman

The last named attended school between the ages of six and fourteen years, learned the blacksmith's trade in early life and came to America when twenty-seven years of age, sailing from Germany to Hull, England, and from Liverpool to America, arriving in New Orleans in November, 1852, after a voyage of forty-two days. He then proceeded by steamer to St. Louis, where he lived for one year, devoting his energies to the blacksmith's trade. For his first week's work he received five dollars in gold. He was married in that city to Mary Eberhardt, and they became the parents of a daughter, Bertha. The mother died a short time afterward, and from St. Louis Mr. Fillman removed to Ottawa, Illinois, where his daughter was reared by her maternal grandfather, Joseph Eberhardt, who is now deceased. Mr. Fillman worked at the blacksmith's trade from September 30, 1854, until February 1, 1855, when he went to St. Paul on a prospecting tour. He located, however, in Galena, Illinois, where he followed blacksmithing and wagon-making. Subsequently he spent some time in Elgin, Illinois, after which he went to Ottawa. He was married August 7, 1855, to Eva Maria Burger, of Morris, Illinois, who was born in the village of Kaudorf, Bavaria, on the 17th of June, 1834, and came to America in 1851, with her brother, George S. Burger. They left Hamburg on a new sailing vessel and from New York came to Illinois, locating in Good Farm township, Grundy county.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fillman located in Ottawa, where he worked at his trade until March 5, 1856, when he established a blacksmith shop of his own at Marseilles, Illinois, being employed there until December 5, 1857. Subsequently he purchased a farm of forty acres in LaSalle county and in 1858 he bought a second tract in Good Farm township, for which he paid ten dollars per acre. Removing to Dwight, he opened a blacksmith shop in which he carried on business for seven years. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land just across the road from his present home. There were few improvements upon the place, yet he carried on the work of cultivation, making it his home for many years. As his financial resources increased he extended its boundaries from time to time until he owned six hundred acres, which came to him as the result of hard work and untiring thrift. By his second wife Mr. Fillman had the following children: George Stephen, born January 3, 1857; John William, born January 11, 1859, and died at the age of four years; Charles, born August 28, 1860; Ludwig Leonard, born July 12, 1862; Catherine Marietta, born September 28, 1864; John Jacob, born January 27, 1867; and Barbara Maria Louise, born October 25, 1869. The parents are members of the Lutheran church and he held the office of elder and church librarian. In politics he was a Democrat and for three years he

served as the road commissioner for Good Farm township. He has led a very busy, industrious life, earning his property by his own unaided efforts. His life has ever been honorable and upright, characterized by common sense and good judgment in all private and public relations. He has never used either whisky or tobacco, and his career has been characterized by fidelity to those principles which ennoble and elevate men.

In the common schools Charles Fillman, of this review, acquired his education and upon the home farm he was early trained to the work of field and meadow. At the age of twenty-three he was married, in Good Farm township, to Lizzie Klughardt, the wedding taking place April 11, 1883. She was born in Livingston county, Illinois, May 2, 1864, a daughter of Christian and Lavina (Burk) Klughardt. Her father was born in Bavaria, April 23, 1836, and was a son of John and Katherine (Narles) Klughardt. His father was born in the same locality, in 1808, and the ancestors had resided in Bavaria for many generations. John Klughardt was a shoemaker by trade, and was married in his native town, the children of their union being Christian, Katherine, Julia, John, Mary, Emma and Leo. The father of these children came to America, bringing with him his wife and son, Christian, who was then three years old. He left his home in August, 1839, sailed from Hamburg and after a stormy voyage of sixty-five days reached the harbor of New York in October. He made a settlement near Schenectady, Montgomery county, New York, where he followed shoemaking among the Holland Dutch of this locality, meeting with prosperity during the five years in which he followed his trade there. On coming to Illinois he settled in Oswego township, Kendall county, where he purchased twenty-two acres of land, making his home there for nine years. He came to Good Farm township in July, 1853, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, which he improved and cultivated until his death, which occurred January 9, 1859. He was a member of the Methodist church, held the office of class-leader and was an upright and respected man. All of his children were born in America, with the exception of Christian Klughardt, who was born in Bavaria.

The lad attended school for one winter in New York and for eight winters in Oswego, Illinois, and in early life he became familiar with the work of farming, performing the arduous task of clearing the new land and preparing it for the plow. He was married to Louisa Burk, after which they located upon the old homestead in Good Farm township, still later removing to his present home. His wife is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Smith) Burk. Her father was born in Nassau, Germany, in 1810, and was married in that country, where two children, Lavina and Adolph, were born of their union. He followed farming and carpentering

until 1855, when he came to the United States, locating in Plano, Illinois, where he had a farm. In the fall of 1859 he came to Grundy county, purchasing eighty acres of land, transforming it into a good home. His life was one of honest toil, and his labors were ended in death when he had attained the age of seventy-three years.

Christian Klughardt, the father-in-law of Mr. Fillman, located upon a part of his father's farm of eighty acres, in 1866, and placed the land under a high state of cultivation. His children were: Elizabeth, born May 2, 1864; Mary, born April 16, 1866; Julia Matilda, born July 25, 1870; and George, born August 4, 1872. Mrs. Klughardt was a member of the Lutheran church, and died March 29, 1898. Mr. Klughardt, however, is still living and is an enterprising, straightforward farmer of Grundy county.

After his marriage, Charles Fillman, of this review, located on an eighty-acre tract of land belonging to his father and has since operated this farm. He is to-day the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, improved with substantial buildings and all modern accessories and conveniences. He is successfully carrying on general farming and at the same time is a practical mechanic, possessing much mechanical ingenuity. He has invented a wagon-lifter, which is to lift a wagon loaded with corn from the fields and saves the hard labor of unloading. It is an excellent labor-saving device.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fillman have been born the following children: Frederica Mary, born October 20, 1882; Ella Julia, born June 4, 1887; Annie Matilda, born December 2, 1888; Lillie Julia, born May 19, 1892; Franklin John, born November 25, 1896; and Leslie Arthur, born February 23, 1899. Three died in infancy. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Fillman is a stanch Democrat. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and for several terms he has served as a member of the board of education, acting as president of the board at the time a new school-house was erected, and it was through his efforts, largely, that this was secured and equipped with modern accessories and appointments. He is very public-spirited and progressive and withholds his support from no measure or movement which he believes would be of public good.

FRANK H. CLAPP.

Frank H. Clapp, the son of Orrin and Aurelia (Belding) Clapp, was born February 4, 1862, on the old family homestead, and in the district school

acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the normal school at Morris through one year. He then entered upon his business career as a clerk in Mazon in the general store owned by T. Rankin, and there he remained for about three years as a trusted employe of the house. His close application soon enabled him to master the business principles and in 1883 he purchased a half interest in the business, at which time the firm name was changed to F. H. Clapp & Company. In 1887 Donald Rankin purchased an interest in the business and the firm name was changed to Clapp & Rankin. In 1889 these enterprising and progressive business men extended the field of their operations by adding a private banking business. In 1899 Mr. Clapp sold his interest in the mercantile department in order to devote his entire attention to banking and now does a general banking, insurance and real-estate business, and his institution is considered one of the most reliable financial concerns of the county, for he is known as a most trustworthy business man, straightforward in all his dealings, his efforts being guided by sound judgment and practical common sense. His is the only bank in Mazon and his patronage comes from a wide area.

Mr. Clapp was married in November, 1885, in Mazon, to Miss Dora Riggall, who was born in Rockford, Illinois, a daughter of John and Harriet (Porter) Riggall. On the paternal side Mrs. Clapp was descended from English ancestors and on the maternal side is a representative of an old colonial Puritan New England family. Her father, John Riggall, was born at Hull, England, November 8, 1835, a son of John and Elizabeth (Fidler) Riggall. His father was born in Lincolnshire, in September, 1790, but though reared on a farm became a shoemaker. By his marriage to Elizabeth Fidler he had the following children: Sarah, born March 20, 1828; Miles, born in 1831; John, born in 1835; George, born in August, 1838; and Thomas, born August 3, 1840. John Riggall, the father of Mrs. Clapp, came with his family to America in 1840, sailing from Liverpool, England, for New York, where they arrived in November, after a voyage of three months, on an old-fashioned sailing vessel. Mr. Riggall purchased a farm in Madison county, New York, and there passed his remaining days, his death occurring in 1866, when he had attained the age of seventy-six years. His wife died in 1874, at the age of seventy-eight. She was born in London, England, in 1796, and was a daughter of George Fidler. She held membership in the Methodist church. Mr. Riggall gave his support to the Republican party.

John Riggall, Jr., the father of Mrs. Clapp, was about five years old when brought by his parents to America, but he can well remember the voyage. He pursued his education in the pioneer log school-house in Madison county, was reared upon a farm and was married in Albany, New York, to

Harriet Porter, whose birth occurred July 25, 1844, at Northville, Fulton county, New York, a daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Gifford) Porter. The latter was born in April, 1804, in Fulton county, and the former was born in April, 1800. He was probably a native of Vermont and was descended from New England Puritan ancestry that located in that section of the country in colonial days. His father was Felix Porter. Unto Hiram and Sarah (Gifford) Porter were born six children, namely: Sumner, George, Selah, Angeline, Elizabeth and Harriet. The father of this family owned and resided upon a farm and there died, at the venerable age of eighty years. He has two sons, Elias and Sumner, who were valiant soldiers in the civil war as members of the New York Infantry. The former was killed at the battle of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, but the latter, although he participated in a number of engagements, escaped injury. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Riggall removed to Washtenaw county, Michigan, near Ann Arbor, where the father engaged in farming until 1866, when he removed to Rockford, Illinois. He there devoted his energies to the cultivation of hops. Subsequently he removed to Kansas and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Saline county, making a number of valuable improvements upon the place during the five years that he maintained his residence there. On the expiration of that period he sold the property and returned to Madison county, New York, where he engaged in farming for a year. In the spring of 1876 he took up his abode in Mazon, where he began business as a mason. He was also in the butchering business for six years, and was connected with the furniture and undertaking business for ten years. His life has been an enterprising and industrious one, characterized by straightforward methods. In politics he is a Democrat and is accounted one of the valued citizens of his community. His children are Sarah, who was born in Michigan, February 14, 1863; Dora V., born near Rockford, Illinois, in August, 1866; Nellie, born near Rockford, Illinois, August 25, 1868; Algie, born in Saline county, Kansas, December 28, 1873; Isie, born in Madison county, New York, November 8, 1875; Ivy, born in Mazon, June 15, 1877; and Hattie, born July 27, 1881.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clapp has been born a son, Gardie, whose birth occurred in Mazon, August 25, 1886. The parents enjoy the hospitality of the best homes in the community and their circle of friends is only limited by their circle of acquaintances. In his political views Mr. Clapp is a stanch Republican and fraternally is a prominent Mason, holding membership in Blaney Commandery, K. T., of Morris. He is also an unaffiliated Odd Fellow. A practical and successful business man, great confidence is reposed in him on account of his conservative and safe methods. He has always maintained a reputation as a man of unblemished character, strong integrity,

and a public-spirited citizen who withholds his support from no measure or movement which he believes will prove of public benefit.

LEMUEL SHORT.

It is probable that there never lived in Grundy county a better example of the self-made man than the late Lemuel Short, of Goose Lake township, some account of whose useful and busy career it will be attempted to give in the following paragraphs. The life of such a man affords a useful lesson to young men of the rising generation and should form a part of such a work as this, which is devoted to the lives and achievements of the men who have redeemed Illinois from a wilderness state and promoted its important interests and developed its natural resources until they have made it in many respects the leading state of the Union.

Lemuel Short was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1819, a son of James and Ellen (McFarland) Short, natives of the Keystone state. In 1824, when he was about five years old, the family removed to a point within the present limits of Ashland county, Ohio, where his parents both died, his father in 1863. The summer of 1836 was spent by young Short, then seventeen years old, in Michigan. He returned to Ohio and remained there until 1838, when he emigrated to Illinois and located in Lake county, where he soon purchased a farm and busied himself with its improvement and in hunting and trapping. He managed his affairs with so much care and thrift that he soon paid for his land.

In 1856 Mr. Short came to Grundy county and bought the property in Felix (now Goose Lake) township, where his widow now lives. He was industrious and enterprising, and possessed good judgment and business ability of a high order, and he accumulated property rapidly, and at the time of his death, which occurred at his home in Goose Lake township, January 13, 1895, he owned more than twenty-five hundred acres of farm land in Goose Lake township and a farm of three hundred and seventy-three acres in Lake county, and was one of the leading stock-raisers of the county. This property he gained by the most commendable methods. He gave strict attention to every detail of his business and accorded to every man with whom he dealt the fullest rights and advantages in every transaction consistent with equity and good business practice. His success was won openly and in a fair fight with the world, and every one who knew him rejoiced with him in it, for all knew that it was richly deserved. Dying, he left not only wealth but the better heritage of a good name.

December 31, 1845, when he was in his twenty-seventh year, Mr. Short

married Sarah Burr, daughter of Warham and Nancy (Cummins) Burr, who was born in Shelby county, Indiana, February 10, 1826, and was then nineteen years old. Her father was born in the state of New York and died in Will county, Illinois, September 6, 1861. Her mother was a native of Ohio and died in Will county, Illinois, March 31, 1862. Mr. and Mrs. Burr came to Illinois in 1833 from Shelby county, Indiana, and brought their daughter with them. Mrs. Short was then seven years old.

Lemuel and Sarah (Burr) Short had children named as follows, in the sequence of their nativity: James was born in Will county, Illinois, November 14, 1847. He married Frances M. Lattimer, June 11, 1874, and one child was born to them, July 1, 1876, a daughter, who was named Frances M. in honor of her mother. Mrs. Short died on the day of her daughter's birth. Frances M. Short married Charles S. Dudgeon, a prosperous farmer of Goose Lake township, and they have one child, Mildred V., born June 22, 1895. August 3, 1881, James Short, after having been a widower for more than five years, married Mrs. Caroline Clark, a daughter of William Moore, who settled in Grundy county among the pioneers. His second wife died at Denver, Colorado, August 8, 1899. He is now living in Kansas, where he is prospering as a farmer and wields much influence as a citizen. Warham B. Short, second child of Lemuel and Sarah (Burr) Short, was born in Will county, Illinois, August 9, 1849, and married Mary Heydecker, January 1, 1878, and they have one child, Mary Sarah, born August 18, 1887. Charles F. and Mary Heydecker, parents of Mrs. Warham B. Short, were married May 11, 1845. Her father, a native of Germany, came to this country in 1844 and located in Lake county, Illinois, where he died April 14, 1896, leaving an excellent record as a farmer and citizen. Her mother, a native of New York, died at the old family home in Lake county, Illinois, January 24, 1884. They had seven children, all of whom are living. Christian T. Heydecker was born in Lake county, Illinois, September 4, 1846, and became prominent as a lawyer and is now state's attorney of Lake county. He married Louisa Townsend, who died without issue, November 14, 1873. April 14, 1875, he married Carrie Gousley, of Springfield, Illinois, and they have three children,—Coral, Bessie and Alice. Charles W. Heydecker was born December 22, 1847, in Lake county, Illinois, and married Eliza Crawford, of Lake county, May 22, 1872. They have three children: Roy, who married Cora Pelliphant, of Lake county, Illinois, and has a daughter named Ruth; William and Mabel. Mary Heydecker is Mrs. Warham B. Short, as has been stated. Edwin J. Heydecker was born in Lake county, Illinois, and is a leading lawyer of that county, where he married Sarah Crittenden. Clara P. Heydecker, born March 20, 1857, married Lemuel Short, Jr. Emma Heydecker, born in Lake county, Illinois, March

12, 1859, is still living there, unmarried. Adolph Heydecker, born February 22, 1861, is a well-to-do farmer of Lake county.

Alvina, third child of Lemuel and Sarah (Burr) Short, was born in Lake county, Illinois, May 25, 1852, and was married July 4, 1871, to Mathew Gaffney, a farmer and stock-raiser of Hamilton, Kansas, and they have had twelve children, eleven of whom are living. Of these John married Ann Adams, of Hamilton, Kansas, and had three children: Ellen, who is now Mrs. Honeycup, of Hamilton, Kansas, and has a son named Vivian; Lucy and Mary live at Hamilton, Kansas; Alvina died in Will county, Illinois; and others are named James, Edward, Rowley, Sarah, Lillie, George and Hubert. Lemuel, Jr., the fourth child of Lemuel and Sarah (Burr) Short, was born in Lake county, Illinois, January 24, 1855, and, as has been stated, married Clara P. Heydecker, a sister of the wife of his brother, Warham B. They live at Hamilton, Kansas, where Mr. Short is a successful farmer, and have eleven children, as follows: Lida, Clara E., Orrin, Lottie, Elmer, Pearl, Emma, Lemuel, Cora, Valentine and an infant. William, the fifth child of Lemuel and Sarah (Burr) Short, was born in Lake county, Illinois, July 17, 1856, and died there on February 1, 1859. Mrs. Lemuel Short, in her widowhood, lives on the family homestead in Goose Lake township, with her son, Warham B. Short, who has succeeded to the management of the farm and is one of the most prominent of the young men of the township.

JOHN HAMILTON.

The life history of a self-made man is always of interest, and when we analyze his career in order to find the secret of his success we usually learn that it has been acquired as the direct result of indefatigable labor. In fully ninety-nine cases out of a hundred this is so. Capable management, enterprise and sound judgment bear a part in the desired result, but labor is the foundation of prosperity. It is in these lines that Mr. Hamilton has become one of the most extensive land-owners of Grundy county.

He is of sterling Scotch ancestry, although his birth occurred in Canada. His father, Samuel Hamilton, was born in Scotland, about 1808, acquired a common-school education and learned the weaver's trade. When a young man he removed to county Tyrone, Ireland, and soon afterward crossed the Atlantic to Canada on a sailing vessel which weighed anchor at Liverpool, England. The voyage continued for six weeks, at the end of which time he landed at Quebec,—a young man of eighteen years, who had come to America to try his fortune. He located on the island of Chateaugay, which was formed by the rivers Chateaugay and the Utard. It is located forty

miles southwest of Montreal. Mr. Hamilton was led to seek a location there by reason of the fact that his brother John had settled on land on that island about three years previously. With him Mr. Hamilton made his home for three years, and then purchased fifty acres of land covered with heavy timber. Clearing away the trees, he transformed the tract into well-developed fields and successfully carried on agricultural pursuits there. He married Miss Jane Ann McNown, whose sister, Fanny McNown, was the wife of his brother John. Their father, James McNown, was of sterling Scotch-Irish ancestry from the north of Ireland, and was an Episcopalian in religious faith. Leaving the Emerald Isle, he crossed the briny deep to Canada, locating in the midst of the forest, where he cleared a fine farm, becoming one of the substantial settlers of the community. There he spent his remaining days, dying upon his farm when about eighty-nine years of age. When a young man he went to Dublin, Ireland, and while there was pressed into the British navy and put on board a British man-of-war. His family heard nothing of him for several years, but when liberated he rejoined them in Ireland, after having spent seven years in the naval service. He was a very strong and hearty man, a typical Canadian pioneer, who in the midst of the forest "hewed out" his home by main strength. The Canadian pioneers were of the class who could endure great privations, for during the long winters the snow fell to the depth of five or six feet and many fences were entirely buried. The children of Mr. and Mrs. McNown were: Bessie, Fannie, Hugh, William, Robert, Christie and Ann.

After his marriage Samuel Hamilton, the father of our subject, continued to reside upon the tract of fifty acres which he had cleared in the midst of the heavy timber in Canada. He built a substantial pioneer cabin of hewed logs and made a good home for his family. His children were: Matilda, John, James, Samuel, William, Eliza, Margaret, Robert, Henry, Sarah, Ann, Ellen, William and Susan. All lived to years of maturity with the exception of Samuel, who died in infancy, and James and William, who died of scarlet fever at the age of four and six years respectively. William Hamilton, the father of this family, died when about fifty-one years of age. He was small in stature, but was a very strong and rugged man, and his life was characterized by unflagging industry. He held membership in the Episcopal church.

John Hamilton, whose name introduces this review, was born on the old home farm in the hewed-log cabin in the midst of the Canadian wilderness, on the 2d of December 1835. He can well remember the forest country and the pioneer scenes and experiences, and his recollection presents to his mind events that occurred when he was in his third year. Canadian woods were full of wild animals, including brown bears, large timber wolves, wild-

cats, moose and deer. His early experiences were those of most pioneer settlers. The family lived in simple and frugal style. Their fare was plain, and their clothing was good but unpretentious. His educational privileges were limited to two years' attendance in a log school-house. This period of study was not continuous, but was carried on at intervals of a few weeks during the winter seasons. He never attended school after he had attained the age of thirteen, for his services were needed on the farm. He began to work when very young. His father was a weaver, and therefore did not understand the care and use of horses; so that John had to harness the horses when he was so small that he had to stand upon the manger in order to put bridles on. He learned to plow when he was only twelve years of age, using a heavy, old-fashioned Scotch plow, and from that time until leaving home he did much of the plowing on the farm. However, he did not work at home to any great extent until he was fifteen years of age, procuring employment on neighboring farms.

When sixteen years of age he assisted in the work of building a dam and sawmill, carrying the heavy stone used in construction work. He regards that as the hardest labor he ever performed, for he worked twelve hours a day for four months. He was employed to a considerable extent in sawmills in Canada and in getting out heavy timber. When he was nineteen years of age he was thus employed in the woods, and also engaged in driving logs and rafting them down the St. Lawrence river to Montreal. He received one hundred and twenty dollars for that work and saved one hundred dollars of it. The exposure and dangers of such work were very great, for the rafting was done in the early spring when the river was very high. The men were thoroughly drenched each day in the cold water, and a mis-step on the rolling, slippery logs would probably have meant death in that rapid current. The log crews were largely composed of French Canadians, and as many rafts were floated down the river in the spring these crews would crowd the small French Canadian taverns almost beyond their capacity, and the little bar-rooms were so full that standing room could hardly be obtained. It was the only place, however, in which the loggers could remain through the nights, and, though cold, wet and tired, they were often forced to remain standing all night; so overcrowded were the rooms that there was no opportunity for them to lie down to sleep. It was the custom of many of those French Canadians to get drunk on whisky, which was freely sold at a low price. Such actions so completely disgusted Mr. Hamilton with the use of tobacco and liquors that he has never tasted either in his life. This is a record of which he may certainly be proud.

When twenty-one years of age he came to the west, leaving home in October, 1857. He made the trip to Chicago by way of the Grand Trunk

Railroad, and thence to Morris. He worked by the month for two years and seven months in the employ of Deacon Hills, of Kendall county, Illinois, and during that time lost only twelve days. He carefully saved his money, and on the expiration of that period he rented a tract of land of Deacon Hills, cultivating the same for one year. He then purchased eighty acres near Newark, Kendall county, and began the further development of this land, which was but partially improved. His sister Matilda, who had come from Canada two years previously, acted as his housekeeper and remained with him until his marriage.

On the 23d of February, 1861, in Kendall county, Illinois, he wedded Miss Susan Saddler, who was born in Lower Canada, on the 1st of April, 1836, and is a daughter of John and Ann (Mason) Saddler. Her father was born in Ireland and was of Irish lineage. In that country he married, after which he took up his abode in Belfast, where he worked at the weaver's trade. In 1831 he crossed the Atlantic to Quebec, Canada, and purchased land near the Hamilton location, on the banks of the Chateaugay river. There he cleared a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-four years of age. His wife died when she was about fifty years of age. In religious faith he was an Episcopalian. His children were Margaret, Jane, Joseph, Susan and John. The elder two were natives of Ireland and the younger two became residents of Grundy county, Illinois.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are Maria J., born September 23, 1861; Samuel R., born March 30, 1863; Lillie, born February 25, 1865; Walter S., born December 10, 1867; and Annie E., born July 28, 1873. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton removed to Grundy county, Illinois, renting a farm on section 30, Mazon township, of one hundred and sixty acres. Three years later Mr. Hamilton purchased this and continued its cultivation and improvement until 1894. He built a substantial brick residence and good barns, drained the place with tiling and made it one of the best improved and most valuable farming properties in Grundy county. As a result of his steady thrift and industry he prospered, and as his financial resources increased he added to his land until he became one of the most extensive land-owners in Grundy county. He had at one time about one thousand acres of land in Grundy county, of which he has given his children four hundred and thirty acres, retaining possession of the remainder. He now owns a large tract of land in Osceola county, Iowa, and other lands, making in all about fourteen hundred acres, so that he is now the owner of about two thousand acres altogether.

In his political views Mr. Hamilton is a Democrat. While he always exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that

party, he has never taken any interest in office-holding, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, in which he has indeed met with creditable success. He is certainly a self-made man, for when he arrived in Morris he had only about twenty-five cents in his pocket. A thousand miles from home, among strangers and with no capital, a young man of resolute will and determined purpose started out in life on his own account and steadily worked his way upward, overcoming the difficulties and obstacles by resolute will and capable management. He aided other members of the family who came to Illinois, and his mother made her home with him in her old age, dying at his residence. His sisters also lived with him until they were married. He now has eight sisters living in Grundy county, all married and with families of their own. The hardships and experiences which Mr. Hamilton underwent in his youth and early life and the humble manner of living among the pioneers developed in him physical strength and also the determination to overcome the obstacles which he met in later life. His straightforward dealing and his unflagging industry have been the factors in his success, and to-day he stands among the wealthy men of Grundy county who bear an unassailable reputation in business circles, being highly esteemed wherever he is known for his genuine worth.

OLIVER S. VINER.

Oliver S. Viner was of sterling English descent, the original home of the Viner family being at Bristol, Somersetshire, England. John Viner, the great-grandfather of our subject, was a native of that county and became a florist, carrying on business in the city of Bristol, where he resided for many years, his death occurring there between the ages of sixty and seventy years. He was a member of the Church of England and a man of much worth and ability. He married Miss Mary Wescot and they became the parents of the following children: Thomas, John, Elizabeth, William and Charles, all natives of Bristol.

Charles Viner, the grandfather of our subject, was born May 6, 1797, in Bristol, obtained a common-school education, and when fifteen years of age enlisted in the British army, becoming a member of the Light Dragoons. But on account of his extreme youth his father objected to his entering the army and he accordingly returned home. In 1812, however, he re-enlisted in the regular British infantry and went with his regiment to Canada, landing at Quebec. The English forces were stationed at Prescot, Canada, and thence he came to America when sixteen years of age. One night, while he was serving as a corporal of the guard, he deserted with six of his

comrades, comprising the entire watch. They stole a skiff by breaking the lock and all seven crossed the St. Lawrence river in the early morning. The St. Lawrence at that point is two and a half miles wide, but they rowed to the opposite bank and landed in the woods near Ogdensburg, on the American side. They lost their way in the forest, however, and traveled all day without reaching any habitation, when one of them, who had been a sailor, climbed a tall tree, from which vantage ground he could see the town of Ogdensburg about three miles away. They had traveled all day, yet were not far from the place where they landed. They found protection among the farmers of that locality, and traded their red coats and muskets for citizens' clothes and hired out as farm hands. Mr. Viner continued to work in that region until he was twenty-two years of age, when he was married, in St. Lawrence county, New York, to Miss Sarah Banister, who was born in Rutland, Vermont, March 4, 1797, a daughter of Jason and Mary Banister. Her father belonged to one of the old colonial families of the Green Mountain state, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He had served this country in the war of the American Revolution, and afterward followed farming near the Green mountains in the state of his nativity. He lived to be over eighty years of age and died upon his farm, respected throughout the community where he was known. Of his children the names of only Oliver, Polly and Sarah are now remembered.

Charles Viner and his wife purchased eighty acres of land in the woods near Parisville, St. Lawrence county, New York, and the husband cleared a portion of that property, but afterward sold it and removed to Madrid, New York, where he worked in a distillery for four years. He then purchased a farm in St. Lawrence county,—a tract of timberland which he improved and transformed into a valuable property. His children were all born in St. Lawrence county, and were as follows: William L., born February 20, 1820; Albert L., February 6, 1822; Varnum V., May 23, 1824; Roswell M., October 15, 1826; Mary E., December 21, 1828; John T., March 24, 1831; Martha M., July 20, 1833; Susan S., November 22, 1835; and Josephine P., born April 18, 1838.

Charles Viner removed with his family to Illinois in 1844, making the journey with horses and wagon. He left his old home on the 10th of September and arrived in McHenry county on the 22d of October. The party consisted of Mr. Viner, his wife and all of their children with the exception of William and Albert. Their youngest child was not then six years of age. William had come to the west in 1842 and secured farm work near Galena, Illinois. He wrote home once, but was never heard from after that time. His father after arriving in the Prairie state made a journey to Galena to learn something of his whereabouts, but found no trace of him except that

he learned that a man by the name of "Vining" was reported to have been murdered some years before. Albert, the other son, came to Illinois in 1843. On reaching this state Charles Viner purchased eighty acres of land in McHenry county, Illinois, that had been cleared, and with characteristic energy he began to improve the property, which he afterward sold to his son Varnum. He then came to Grundy county in the spring of 1850, making the journey by team. Here he purchased twenty acres of land of his son Albert, upon which tract the Mazon cemetery is now located. He and his family took up their abode in a log cabin which his sons, Albert and Varnum, had built, and later Mr. Viner purchased forty acres on a school section, which is now a part of the village of Mazon. There he spent his remaining days, being killed in a cyclone on the 18th of April, 1863. The frame house which he erected in the meantime was struck by the storm and moved from its foundations. He was caught by the house as it swung around and instantly killed while trying to reach his cellar. His wife escaped, as he had forced her to go to the cellar a few minutes previously. Mr. and Mrs. Viner were both consistent and respected members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he served as its class-leader for a number of years. He was also a well-known and able exhorter and served as a local preacher through a long period. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat, and held the office of road commissioner in McHenry county. He was a most highly respected citizen, an honored pioneer and over the record of his life there fell no shadow of wrong nor suspicion of evil.

Roswell M. Viner, a son of Charles Viner and the father of our subject, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, October 15, 1826, and with his father's family came to McHenry county in 1844. He received the usual school privileges, was reared to farm work, and throughout his life carried on agricultural pursuits. He was married on the 23d of September, 1854, to Caroline Thayer, whose birth occurred in Chenango county, New York, January 24, 1839, a daughter of Oliver and Betsy (Williams) Thayer. Her father was born in Massachusetts, March 22, 1812, and was a descendant of an old colonial family of that state. His ancestors were Puritans who located in Massachusetts in 1636. Oliver Thayer was a farmer and mechanic, and for many years resided in Chenango county, New York, but in 1848 emigrated westward to DeKalb county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm upon which almost no improvements had been made. He afterward sold that property and purchased eighty acres of land in Pierce township. In 1867 he removed to Iowa, settling on one hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in Cedar township, Black Hawk county, but later he returned to Illinois, where he died at the age of eighty-six. In politics he was a Democrat. His children were Caroline; Oscar H.; Oliver W., who died at the age of

twenty-four years; Martha M.; Lucretia B.; and Kneeland D., who died at the age of seventeen years.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Roswell Viner located on a farm which was very near the eastern corporate limits of Mazon. He was a successful and practical agriculturist, being very industrious and displaying excellent powers of management. Although he was lame all his life, his sturdy industry and thrift and the assistance of his faithful and capable wife enabled him to overcome all obstacles in his path and steadily worked his way upward to affluence. He gradually added to his land until he owned two hundred and twenty acres under a high state of cultivation. He erected good and substantial buildings upon the place and had one of the best improved farms in Mazon township. He was a man of strong character and sterling worth, and enjoyed the confidence and good will of all who knew him. His political support upheld the men and measures of the Republican party. His children were William L. and Oliver S., who reached mature years; Betty S., who died at the age of nine years; and Fred P., who died at the age of twelve years. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Viner was married again. On the 20th of October, 1890, in Joliet, Illinois, she became the wife of Varnum V. Viner, a brother of her first husband, and in 1894 removed to the village of Mazon, where they now reside.

William L. Viner, the elder surviving son of the family, was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, and was only a year old when taken by his parents to Mazon township. The common schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges, and practical training at farm work fitted him for his business career. He has always carried on agricultural pursuits and now resides on the old Viner homestead. His land is under a high state of cultivation and yields a good return for the care and labor bestowed upon it. He was married in Mazon township, December 24, 1879, to Miss Luella Somers, who was born August 22, 1856, in Goodhue county, Minnesota, a daughter of George H. and Lucy (Lockhart) Somers. They now have two children,—Lucy May, born February 7, 1889, and George R., born in 1893.

Oliver S. Viner, whose name introduces this record, is a son of Roswell and Caroline (Thayer) Viner, and was born September 9, 1858, in Mazon township, on the old Roswell Viner homestead. The days of his boyhood and youth were quietly passed. Through the summer months he worked in the field and meadow, and in the winter season he devoted his time to mastering the branches of English learning. He was married when about twenty-four years of age, the marriage being celebrated on the 11th of June, 1882, Miss Alta Amelia Fuller becoming his wife. She was born in old Mazon, November 1, 1863, a daughter of Owen H. and Weltha (Isham) Fuller. After their marriage this worthy couple took up their abode upon the old

family homestead belonging to Mr. Viner's father, and there remained for nine years. On the expiration of that period they removed to the village of Mazon. There Oliver Viner engaged in the grain and lumber business in connection with Owen H. Fuller until 1893, when he took his family to the hot springs of South Dakota, hoping that the health of his wife and children would be thus benefited. They spent one year in that locality and received much benefit from the sojourn. They then returned to Mazon and Mr. Viner resumed his former business. He now enjoys a liberal patronage as a grain and lumber merchant, his trade steadily increasing.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Viner have been born the following children: Flossie A., born March 4, 1887; and Fred O., born January 21, 1890. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mrs. Viner is serving as its steward. She has filled this office at different times for several years, and has ever given her earnest support to the church, doing all in her power to promote its welfare and growth. In politics he is a Republican and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias at Mazon, in whose lodge he holds the office of exchequer. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of Mazon and for that organization is serving as banker. He is one of the most respected citizens of the village, a man of unblemished character, who in all life's relations has been found true and faithful to his duty. He is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family, and his own sterling qualities of character commend him to the confidence and regard of all who know him.

OLE SEVERSON.

Ole Severson is a native of the land of the Midnight Sun. Among the representatives of that nation who have sought homes in America are found men of the most substantial and reliable citizens of our land. Thrift, enterprise, loyalty and fidelity are numbered among the chief characteristics of these sons of the Scandinavian Peninsula, and it is such qualities that have gained Mr. Severson his place among the substantial farmers of Greenfield township, Grundy county. He was born in Schonwick, Norway, in August, 1845, and is a son of Sever and Mary (Knutson) Lawson. The father was a farmer and a very hard-working man. His children were: Knut, Laws, John, Knut (the second of the name), Ole, and Valia. Mr. Lawson died in Norway, at the age of seventy years, in the faith of the Lutheran church, of which he had long been a member.

Ole Severson was reared on the little farm in Norway on which his parents resided, and received such educational privileges as the common schools of that country afforded. He was trained to habits of industry and

economy, and became familiar with the duties and labors of field and meadow. In early life, however, he went to sea, sailing on fishing and merchant vessels. When thirty-five years of age he crossed the Atlantic to America, taking passage on a westward bound steamer at Bergen, and landing at New York in 1880. Taking up his abode in Morris, Illinois, he secured employment on a farm in Grundy county, and throughout his residence here has been connected with its agricultural interests. He was married in Morris, about 1888, to Elizabeth Sampson, whose birth occurred in Norway in 1844, her parents being Mauns and Gusta (Yonson) Sampson. Her father was a farmer, and on emigrating to America took up his abode in Greenfield township, Grundy county, where he died at the age of eighty-five years. His wife passed away at the age of eighty-three. They were highly respected people, and were consistent members of the Lutheran church. Their children were: Sarah, Annie, Elizabeth and Senie.

Mr. and Mrs. Severson have one son, Eli. After their marriage they took up their abode on a rented farm in Greenfield township, and in 1891 Mr. Severson purchased his present farm, a tract of eighty acres, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre. He has greatly improved the property, placed many rods of tile upon it, and now has a rich tract under a high state of cultivation, the well tilled fields yielding to him a golden tribute in return for his care and cultivation. His life has been one of hard labor, and he has had many difficulties and obstacles to overcome. It was particularly difficult for him and his wife to gain a start, as they were unfamiliar with the English language; but as the years have passed they have steadily worked their way upward, the enterprise, capable management and untiring industry of the husband being supplemented by the labors of his wife, who in the care of her household displayed excellent judgment and strict economy. In this way they obtained a start, and to-day they are in comfortable circumstances. They may well be proud of their success, for it has been worthily won, and their home stands as a monument to their thrift and ability. Mr. Severson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church.

ORRIN CLAPP.

Orrin Clapp is one of the honored pioneers of Mazon township and a valuable and respected citizen, whose life has been one of usefulness and value. On the paternal side he springs from sterling Welsh ancestry that inter-married with the old Puritan families of New England. His grandfather, Benjamin Clapp, was a farmer of Vermont, his home being

about thirty miles east of Plattsburg on the boundary line between Moncton and Bristol townships, in Addison county. He married Miss Hanna Smith, a representative of one of the old colonial families of the Green Mountain state, and their children were Samuel, David and Phoebe. Throughout the years of his early manhood, Benjamin Clapp resided upon his farm in Addison county and was an industrious and highly respected man and worthy citizen. He died when about eighty years of age.

Samuel Clapp, the father of our subject, was born on his father's farm in Vermont in September, 1786, and received the usual school privileges of that day. He was married in Bristol, Addison county, to Miss Olive Brooks, who was born on the old Brooks homestead in Bristol township. Her father was a farmer and belonged to one of the old colonial families of Vermont. His children were John, Olive, and Lucinda. He lived to the venerable age of ninety years and enjoyed the warm regard of all who knew him. After his marriage, Samuel Clapp took up his abode upon a farm which he purchased in Moncton township, Addison county. He improved that property, erecting substantial buildings and placed the fields under a high state of cultivation. In February, 1833, he started for St. Lawrence county, New York, with a team of horses and a sled. He employed several of the neighbors to assist him in making the removal and they drove through with the oxen, cows and other farm stock. They were four days in making the journey of one hundred miles. On reaching St. Lawrence county, Mr. Clapp made a settlement at Stockholm, four miles east of Potsdam, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty acres. It had long been claimed, but the most of the land was in its primitive condition. By his sturdy thrift and industry, however, he transformed it into richly cultivated fields, thus becoming the owner of one of the fine farming properties in the neighborhood. He erected a commodious and pleasant residence and other substantial farm buildings and as the result of his untiring labor and capable management he prospered in his undertaking. To this farm he added twenty-five acres, making it a tract of one hundred and seventy-five acres, upon which he spent his remaining days, his death occurring when he was about sixty-two years of age. His children who reached mature years were Sawyer S., Mary M., Nelson, Orrin and Henry.

Orrin Clapp was born in Addison county, Vermont, on the old family homestead December 3, 1820, and was a lad of thirteen summers when his parents removed to St. Lawrence county, New York; and he can well remember the journey. His brother Sawyer had charge of the ox team and the stock. The sleighing was good and Lake Champlain was crossed on the ice. Orrin acquired the usual common-school education and was

reared upon a farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He was trained to habits of thrift and industry and assisted in the development of the home farm. When he was twenty-one years of age, his father gave him a share in the products of the farm in return for his labor; and, being thus compensated for his services, Orrin Clapp remained at home until he was twenty-four years of age. He then went to Connecticut, in 1844, and was employed for about ten months near the Connecticut river. He then returned to the Green Mountain state and worked on the home farm or in the neighborhood until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he came to Illinois, taking up his abode, in October, 1848, in McHenry county, where his brother Nelson was then engaged in agricultural pursuits. For about a year he was employed as a farm hand in that locality. In the meantime, in connection with Isaac Doud, who had come to the west from New York, he purchased in Chicago for one hundred dollars a soldier's warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of land. His brother Nelson with this warrant located the land on section 32, Mazon township, Grundy county, the tract up to that time having been in possession of the United States government. It was all wild and unimproved but was capable of high cultivation. Orrin Clapp came to Grundy county in October, 1849, and was accompanied by his brother Henry. Upon the claim they built in a few days a pine-board shanty and there, amid the wild scenes of frontier life, our subject resided for five years, making improvements upon his place and converting the wild prairies into rich fields. In 1854, however, he exchanged that property for eighty acres of school land north of the village of Mazon, and there he developed a good farm from a tract of land which was in its primitive condition when he took possession of it. He erected a good residence, substantial barns and outbuildings and added all modern accessories and conveniences.

On the 1st of January, 1850, in Mazon township, Mr. Clapp was united in marriage to Miss Aurelia Belding, who was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, and was a daughter of William and Lorena (Sanford) Belding. Her father belonged to one of the old Puritan families of Vermont and was numbered among the pioneer farmers of Grundy county. In the Green Mountain state he married Miss Sanford, and in the fall of 1848 they emigrated westward, locating on a tract of wild land adjoining the present site of the village of Mazon on the east. There he improved his property, making a good pioneer home, and upon this farm he died, at the venerable age of eighty-three years. He was a member of the Methodist church and a highly respected citizen. His children were Nelson, William, Mortimer, Fidelia, Amanda, Clarinda and Aurelia.

After his marriage Mr. Clapp located upon his farm and entered upon a prosperous business career. He prosecuted his labors with great energy and determination, and as a result of his well directed and persevering efforts he acquired a handsome competence which now enables him to live retired. In 1883 he erected an attractive residence in Mazon, where his son, Frank Clapp, now lives. On putting aside business cares in that year, our subject has since rested in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clapp were born two children: Ada M., who was born February 1, 1854, in Mazon township; and Frank H., who was born in the same township, February 4, 1862. The daughter was married in Mazon February 8, 1876, to Oscar Davis, and they have one child, Frank F., who was born in April, 1883. Frank H., the son of our subject, is a banker in Mazon.

In his political views, Mr. Clapp is a Republican and was one of the first in the county to vote the Republican ticket, supporting John C. Fremont for the presidency, and afterward voting for Abraham Lincoln. His loyalty to the duties of citizenship has ever been one of his marked characteristics and he has always done everything in his power to promote the welfare of county, state and nation; yet he has never been an office-seeker, nor has he sought official reward at any time in recognition of his services. He is truly a self-made man whose prosperity has been won by his own unaided efforts. His honesty is above question and his fine moral character has won him the unqualified confidence of those with whom he has been brought in contact, while among those who know him his word is as good as any bond that was ever solemnized by signature or seal.

JOHN H. MISNER.

During the civil war Mr. Misner manifested his loyalty to the government by going to the front with the boys in blue. He is a grandson of one of the heroes of the Revolution, and his patriotic spirit has always been manifested in support of all movements and measures which he believed would prove of public benefit. The Misners are of sturdy Pennsylvania Dutch stock, the ancestors of our subject being early settlers of the Keystone state. His grandfather was a son of Conrad Misner, and was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1759. He was married in 1787 to Miss Barbara Stacker, whose birth occurred in Germany January 13, 1773. She remained in the Fatherland until eleven years of age, when she came with her parents to the New World. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Misner occurred in Pennsylvania, but early in their married

life they removed to Kentucky and afterward to Ohio, whence they went to Indiana and later to Illinois, locating near Newark, this state, about the year 1840. There Henry Misner died, September 25, 1848, and his wife passed away May 20, 1847.

He was a valiant soldier in the service of his country and took part in the Indian war against the Six Nations, serving under General Sullivan. When the colonies attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression, he joined the American army, enlisting as an Indian spy, at the age of seventeen years and six months. Later he served in the North Cumberland company in a militia regiment, in which he remained for fifteen months, as a private under Captain Green. On the 2d of September, 1832, when seventy-three years of age and while a resident of Pickland, Indiana, he applied for a pension.

In his family were sixteen children, thirteen sons and three daughters, and with one exception all were married and had families. Two of his sons, Henry and Demarquis, came to Illinois in 1832, bringing with them their families. Demarquis and his family lived in a tent during the month of November, until the trees could be cut down and a log cabin erected. He took up his claim near Lisbon, Illinois, and he served in the war of 1812 under Captain Sloan and General Hull in an Ohio regiment, being with Hull's army at the time of the surrender at Detroit. He was afterward a pensioner of that war. Subsequently to the arrival of Henry and Demarquis in Illinois, two daughters and seven sons of the same family came to this state. These were Mrs. Elizabeth Scoggins, Mrs. Serena Hauck, Elijah, Elisha, Christopher, Ransom, Harrison, Abraham and Fletcher. Elijah afterward went to Missouri and died there, but Elisha spent his last days in Grundy county and they were farmers. Abraham took up his residence near Springfield, Illinois, where he spent his remaining days. Fletcher was for sixty years a resident of Millington, Illinois, where he engaged in the manufacture of wagons and agricultural implements, at one time doing a large business. He is still living, making his home with his son in Anderson, Indiana. The remains of Henry Misner, the Revolutionary hero, were interred in the Millington burying ground where, three years ago, the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a monument to his memory. It is believed that he was the second Revolutionary soldier to die in Illinois.

Ransom Misner, the father of our subject, was born in Ohio, May 21, 1810, learned the carpenter's trade and was married in his native state to Miss Margaret Cromwell, who was born February 7, 1810, and died May 12, 1839. Immediately after the death of his wife, Mr. Misner established a home in Kendall county, Illinois, where he followed his trade until 1850,

when he started across the plains to California with a party formed at Quincy, Illinois. While hunting, in May of that year, he was killed by Comanche Indians. His life had been an honorable and upright one and he was respected by all who knew him. His children were George D., born November 8, 1833; John H., born December 22, 1834; Mary F., born December 22, 1836, and Martha A., born September 14, 1838.

John H. Misner was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, and was about four years old when brought by his father to Illinois. His educational privileges were limited, but his training at farm labor was not meager and throughout his life he has carried on agricultural pursuits. In 1851 he came to Grundy county, where he worked as a farm hand until April 27, 1862, when he enlisted at Ottawa, Illinois, as a member of Company G, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Infantry, under command of Captain Salem White. When hostilities had ceased he was honorably discharged June 6, 1865, near Washington, D. C. At the battle of Hartsville, Tennessee, where the regiment was captured, he succeeded in making his escape, although the rebels fired at him. After four days spent in the woods when there was about six inches of snow on the ground, he succeeded in reaching the Union troops at Gallatin, Tennessee. During his wanderings he had been protected by the colored people. His exposure, however, brought on illness, and after six weeks spent in the hospital at Gallatin he was sent home with the sick and wounded men of his regiment, remaining in the north during the winter. The following April he rejoined his regiment at Chicago, Illinois, where the troops were engaged in guarding prisoners. In the spring he went with them to Nashville and participated in the Tullahoma campaign and in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and the Atlanta campaign, where his regiment was under fire for one hundred days. He was also with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea and campaigned from Savannah through the Carolinas. In North Carolina he and sixty comrades, who had been detailed to forage, were taken prisoners and sent to Johnston's headquarters and from there to Richmond, being confined in the famous Libby prison for four days, after which he was paroled. They were then sent to Grant's lines at City Point and to Annapolis, Maryland, and to the paroled camp at St. Louis. On the close of the war they were transferred to Washington city to be mustered out. When the country no longer needed his services, Mr. Misner returned to Braceville township, where he resumed farm work.

He was married December 12, 1867, in what is now Maine township, to Miss Esther C. Hill, who was born in Delaware county, Ohio, February 13, 1847, a daughter of John A. and Esther (Marsh) Hill. She was

fourteen years of age when she went to live with her sister Lucy, the wife of E. H. Robinson, and with them she came to Illinois in March, 1865, making her home with them until her marriage to Mr. Misner. Unto our subject and his wife have been born two children, Emma S. and Arthur H.

Mr. and Mrs. Misner began their domestic life upon a farm in Maine township, but after two years removed to their present home, our subject here having eighty acres of land, which he cleared and improved, making it a valuable property. In addition to this he has one hundred and sixty acres of land in Pawnee county, Kansas. In his business dealings he is very reliable and his success may be attributed entirely to his own work.

Mr. Misner belongs to Sedgwick Post, No. 305, G. A. R., of Gardner. He voted for John C. Fremont, the first Republican candidate for the presidency, and has since supported its presidential nominees. Some minor offices have been filled by him and by popular choice has served as a member of the school board of his township, and was a constable of Coal City during his residence in that place. His military career and his public and private life are alike above reproach, and he is regarded as one of the representative men of his neighborhood.

CHARLES E. SOULE, M. D.

The true western spirit of progress and advancement finds exemplification in Charles E. Soule, who is one of the leading physicians of Morris. In his profession he keeps thoroughly abreast of the times and is familiar with all the discoveries made in connection with the medical science and the theories advanced as to its use in administering to the needs of suffering humanity. He is a very able practitioner and has a large patronage, which indicates his position in the front rank of the medical fraternity.

Dr. Soule is a native of Wisconsin, his birth having occurred in Rochester, Racine county, June 11, 1863. His parents were Elvirus and Mary J. (Thomas) Soule, the former a native of Schoharie county, New York, the latter born in Wales. The paternal grandfather, George Soule, was a native of the Empire state, and was descended from French ancestry. When four years of age Mrs. Soule came to the United States with her parents, who located in Racine county, Wisconsin, where they resided until 1871, at which time they removed to Kansas, where their last days were spent. Elvirus Soule accompanied his parents to Racine county in 1845, and after attaining his majority was married. He was born in 1830, and died in that county in 1898. However, he spent considerable time in the west, crossing

the plains to California in 1849 and remaining upon the Pacific slope until 1861, when he returned to the Badger state. In 1864 he responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting in the Thirty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry, with which he served one year. Upon his return from the south he resumed farming, devoting his energies to that occupation until his death. His widow still resides on the old homestead in Wisconsin. There were three children in their family, Edith A., Stella A. and Charles E.

Under the paternal roof Dr. Soule was reared to manhood. He early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and having acquired his preliminary education in the district schools he attended the Rochester Seminary, where he was graduated in 1884. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for three years and then devoted three years to the study of medicine, being graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago on the 26th of February, 1889. He then located in Mount Vernon, Wisconsin, where he practiced until 1892, when he opened an office in Sheridan, Illinois. In May, 1899, he came to Morris, where he has already secured a liberal patronage. He is a member of the LaSalle County Medical Society, the North Central Illinois Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

In 1885 Dr. Soule was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Hollister, a native of Wisconsin, and their union has been blessed with two children—Eula E. and Edgar M. In politics Dr. Soule is a Republican, and socially a Master Mason. He seeks no public office, preferring to devote his energies to his profession, in which he has attained a position of distinction.

GEORGE W. MYERS.

George W. Myers, who was a substantial pioneer farmer of Mazon township, Grundy county, was born in Ohio, in October, 1822, and on the maternal side was descended from the Fox family. Upon the home farm he was reared, becoming familiar with all the labors and duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He obtained a common-school education and when about thirty years of age came to Grundy county.

In this county Mr. Myers was married to Harriet, who was born January 13, 1839, in Michigan, a daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth (Gant) Buck. Her father was of English descent and was a pioneer farmer of the Badger state, residing in Pokagon, Cass county, Michigan. About 1855 he removed to Grundy county, Illinois, locating upon a farm, which he made his home for a number of years. He is now living with his son Frank in Indian Territory, and is a venerable man of about eighty-six years.

His father was one of the heroes of the Revolutionary war. The children of Enoch Buck were Harriet; Martha; Charles; Orlando; James; Emily, who died in early womanhood; Olive; Jesse and Francis.

After locating in Grundy county George Myers devoted his time and energies to the improvement of his farm and added to it until he became the owner of a very valuable property, pleasantly located one mile and a half southwest of the village of Mazon. He died June 13, 1876, respected by all who knew him, for he was a man of unblemished character and an honored citizen. In politics his support was given the Republican party. His children were: Francis, born November 6, 1855; Marion, who was born September 13, 1857, and died January 21, 1864; and Caroline Belle, born February 15, 1866. The mother of this family is still living, is a lady of high character and resides with her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Bell, of Chicago.

The daughter, Caroline, was married October 25, 1888, in Chicago to Dr. James Johnston Bell, one of the leading physicians of the city. He was born in Chicago, January 24, 1861, a son of James and Susan (Ferguson) Bell. His father was born in county Monaghan, Ireland, in the town of Glasslough, April 23, 1822, and was a son of Alexander Bell, who was of sterling Scotch-Irish lineage and was for twenty-five years a soldier in the British army. James Bell received the usual educational privileges of the common schools of this country. He married Miss Susan Ferguson, who was born in the county of Monaghan in 1825, and in 1844 he emigrated to the New World, residing in New York city for some years. In 1855 he arrived in Chicago, where he made his home for fifteen years, and in 1870 he purchased a farm in Kendall county, Illinois, there becoming the owner of six hundred and fifty acres of unimproved land. He located on his property, which he improved, continuing the work of development and cultivation until 1885, when he removed to Minooka, Illinois, where he died March 1, 1893, at the age of seventy-one years. James Bell was of sterling Scotch-Irish ancestry and was an excellent representative of that hardy and intellectual race which has furnished to America many of her most successful men. He possessed rare prudence and sagacity, was a man of highest integrity of character and of noble, honorable sentiments, greatly beloved by his children and respected by all who knew him. His children were: Annie J.; Carrie S.; John A.; William A.; James J.; Lottie, who died at the age of nineteen years; and Maggie, who died at the age of fourteen years. The mother passed away in September, 1889, at the age of sixty-seven.

When eight years of age Dr. James J. Bell removed with the family to Kendall county, Illinois, where he acquired the usual common-school education. He also pursued a full course in the normal school at Morris, Illinois,

where he was graduated in the class of 1884. Determining to make the practice of medicine his life work, he then entered Rush Medical College, at Chicago, and after completing the course immediately began practice in the metropolis. He has since secured a large and lucrative patronage, and his marked ability has gained him prestige among the members of the medical fraternity in the city.

Unto the Doctor and his wife have been born three children: Forest Gunn, who was born February 28, 1891; Stewart L., who was born December 25, 1892; and Warren W., who was born January 27, 1894. In his political views the Doctor is a stanch Republican, and fraternally he is a well-known Mason, belonging to Lake View Lodge, F. & A. M., Lincoln Park Chapter, R. A. M., and the Apollo Commandery, K. P., also the Medina Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He is a man of strong mentality, has been a close and discriminating student of his profession and has won an enviable degree of success as a medical practitioner of Chicago.

WINFIELD S. ALLISON.

The Allisons are a sterling Scotch-Irish family, and early representatives of the name were among the pioneer settlers of New England and Pennsylvania, and were also among those who have carried civilization to the western districts. Members of the family were soldiers in the Colonial and Revolutionary wars, and in the war of 1812. "The History of the Allison Family," by L. A. Morrison, published in 1893 by Damrell & Upham, of Boston, Massachusetts, gives the following account:

"The name Allison occurs quite frequently among the Scotch-Irish settlers in the southwestern part of Chester county, Pennsylvania, from 1718 to 1740, at about the same dates as the emigration from the same localities in the north of Ireland to New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine occurred. The surnames, with the same Christian names of the early Scotch settlers in New Hampshire, were often duplicated at the same dates in the Scotch settlements in Pennsylvania, and among them are Allison, Park, Morrison, Cochran, Boyd, Dickey, McAllister, Stewart, Wilson, Mitchell, Steele, Campbell and others. Nor is this strange when we remember that as early as 1718 not less than five vessels of emigrants from the north of Ireland arrived on the coast of New England, but, forbidden to land at Boston by the intolerant Puritans; went up the Kennebec and there settled. The winter of 1718-19 being one of unusual severity, the great majority of these settlers left the Kennebec and came overland into Pennsylvania, settling in Northampton county."—Letter of William H. Egle, M. D., of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

dated April 13, 1878. He is the author of the "Illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," published in 1876.

Of this hardy band of Pennsylvania pioneers Winfield Scott Allison is descended. His great-grandparents were James and Barbara Allison, of Pennsylvania. They had two sons and three daughters, and James Allison died in Indiana. The grandfather of our subject was John Allison, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1793, and died in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1866. He married Miss Elizabeth Stewart, or Stuart, as the early members of the family spelled the name. She was born at Redstone, Pennsylvania, June 28, 1800, and died February 24, 1886. Their children were James, born August 5, 1818; Jehiel, born May 5, 1821; John, born April 8, 1823; Hiram, born in 1825; one whose birth occurred April 18, 1828, but whose name is not decipherable on the old record; Joseph, born December 28, 1830; Susanna, born October 26, 1834; Mary, born February 3, 1838; George W., born November 11, 1840; and Rebecca, born March 15, 1845. The above record was taken from the old family Bible.

John Allison, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, and the father of this family, enlisted as a private in the Pennsylvania militia in the war of 1812 and served for two hundred and seventy-four days, part of the time under Captain Coulson and Colonel Free. Removing to Belmont county, Ohio, he spent his last days there. His wife, Elizabeth Stewart, was a daughter of Jesse and Mary (Creig) Stewart. Her father was a son of James P. and Barbara (Taylor) Stewart and was the great-grandfather of Winfield Scott Allison. He was born October 12, 1777, and died October 8, 1846. He lived in Marietta, Ohio, in 1812, and there volunteered under Captain Van Horn in the detachment that went northeast through Lake Champlain, thence by way of Niagara to Lake Erie, where he participated in the battle of Lake Erie, under Captain Perry. He was a millwright and ship carpenter and had worked in a printing office. Both a soldier and a sailor, he was a man of fine military deportment and of soldierly bearing, was six feet in height and capable of much endurance. He was one of the pioneer merchants of Mount Pleasant, Ohio, from 1816 to 1818. Many relics of him have been preserved, including the uniform he wore in 1812. He was twice married, his first union being with Elizabeth Creig, by whom he had five children, namely: Elizabeth, Rebecca, Matilda, Mary and James P. His second wife was Miss Lydia Hart and their children were Maria, born November 10, 1835, and died August 2, 1858; Barbara, who was born October 9, 1839, and died July 9, 1845; L. D. Jesse, born February 15, 1842; and J. T. H., born June 23, 1844.

John Allison, Jr., a son of John and Elizabeth (Stewart) Allison, was born April 8, 1823, in Belmont county, Ohio, was reared on the home farm,

received the usual common-school educational privileges and learned the tailor's trade in the country of his nativity. He was married in Belmont county, September 2, 1846, to Miss Sarah A. Turk, who was reared on the banks of the Susquehanna river, a daughter of John and Sarah (Smith) Turk. Her father was a pioneer farmer of Richland township, Belmont county, and married Sarah Smith, who was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, in 1794, a daughter of Thomas and Martha Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Turk became the parents of several children, as follows: Smith, Martha Ann, Eliza, Mary, Sarah A., Terressa, Margaret, David, John, Thomas, and two whose names are not remembered.

John Allison and his wife lived in Belmont county, Ohio, until 1854 or 1855, and then came to Grundy county, Illinois, settling on wild land in Vienna township. He improved the farm and prospered in his undertaking, adding to his land until he owned four hundred and ten acres. In 1869 he removed to Gardner, where he engaged in the banking business, being alone until 1870, when he formed a partnership with Isaac McClure, under the firm name of Allison & McClure. They did a profitable business until June, 1875, when Mr. Allison bought out his partner's interest and conducted the business alone in Gardner until his death. Mr. McClure went to Scandia, Republic county, Kansas, and in 1879 formed a partnership with Mr. Allison, who conducted a banking business at that place, the latter being represented by E. D. Scott; but in 1881 they sold out the business. In politics John Allison was an old-line Whig and became one of the original Republican party, voting for John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln. Being devoted to his business interests, he always refused to hold office. He was a progressive and successful business man, and was in favor of all public improvements. Of a liberal and generous disposition, he withheld his support from no measure which he believed would prove of public good and was ever ready and willing to aid his friends to the extent of his ability. In all his dealings he was straightforward and honorable, and was regarded as one of the most highly respected citizens of Gardner. Fraternally he was connected with the Gardner Lodge, No. 573, F. & A. M. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church, in which he served as a trustee.

Their children were: Sarah E. S., who was born June 20, 1847; Martha A. E., October 1, 1849; John A., October 1, 1851; Joseph S., March 18, 1853; Margaret T., May 11, 1856; Mary E., who was born in Grundy county, January 12, 1859, and died February 22, 1880; Winfield S., born in Grundy county, August 8, 1861; and Capitola B., September 19, 1864. The first four were born in Belmont county, Ohio; the others in Grundy county, Illinois. The mother of these children died January 12, 1875, at the age of forty-eight years, and John Allison afterward wedded Mrs. A. D. Gardner,

the widow of Charles Gardner, who in her maidenhood was Miss West. By this marriage there was one child, Georgia.

Winfield Scott Allison, the subject of this sketch, was born in Vienna township, Grundy county, and with his parents came to Gardner, when about eight years of age. He acquired his education in the public schools here and in the Northwestern Academy, at Evanston, Illinois. He began his business life at the early age of seventeen years as he clerked in his father's banking house and remained there until his father's death, when, by the terms of the will, he was made the administrator of the estate. He has continued the banking business under his own name until the present time and has been very successful, his capital being invested in the bank and in real estate.

On the 18th of April, 1882, in Grundy county, Mr. Allison was married to Miss Emma L. Bookwalter, the daughter of Benjamin and Susan Bookwalter, and they have three interesting children,—Wade S., Mamie and John. Mr. Allison and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church, in which he is serving on the board of trustees, while for the past ten years he has filled the position of elder. Fraternally he is a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to the commandery at Morris, and in politics he is a Republican, but, like his father, seeks no public preferment. He is, however, known as a public-spirited citizen whose aid is liberally given to advance all measures calculated to promote the material, educational and moral welfare of his community. The banking house which his father established, and of which he is now the honored proprietor, is the oldest financial institution in the southern part of Grundy county. Its well-earned reputation for reliability he has maintained by his conservative methods and honorable dealing, and he has made the institution a very successful one, gaining for himself an unassailable reputation in financial circles. He has ever enjoyed in a marked degree the confidence and regard of his fellow men and is justly regarded one of the leading citizens of Gardner.

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